

Lectures on Practical Mining in Germany.

CLAUSTHAL MINING SCHOOL NOTES—No. XLV.*

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SECTION III.

BLASTING MATERIALS.

LITHOFRACTEUR.—Another nitroglycerine compound, which has been recently brought out by Prof. Engell, of Cologne, and manufactured by Krebs Brothers, of Deutz, near Cologne, is that to which the name lithofracteur, or lithofracteur dynamite, has been given. Its most important constituent is nitroglycerine; the remaining (which can only be conjectured, since this material is manufactured under trade secrets) appear to be gun-cotton, or saltpetre, sulphur, and meal, treated with nitric acid. By some its composition has been given as 52 parts by weight of nitroglycerine, 30 of siliceous earthy matter and sand, 12 of powdered coal, 2 of sulphur, and 4 of cubic (soda) nitre; in which case it is essentially a compound of dynamite, but decidedly not a good mixture, having mixed with it a blasting powder which contains an excess of carbon. By others its composition has been given as 75 per cent. of nitroglycerine, the remaining 25 per cent. consisting of varying proportions of keiselguhr, gun-cotton, charcoal, potash, nitre, and sulphur. It is a black plastic substance, having a greasy touch, and floats in water, its specific gravity 0.94. In open air it burns quietly away on ignition; when placed in a bore hole it requires only a loose tamping, but it must be exploded by means of a percussion cap, or a fuse. The same advantages have been claimed for lithofracteur as for dynamite—namely, a saving in cost of labour for bore holes, a less number being required; the work is effected in a much shorter time; on the whole less blasting material is used, so that the extra cost under this item is fully compensated for. Its storage and use, like dynamite, are equally unattended with danger, and its non-liability to explosion during transport is demonstrated by the experiments made at Woolwich of attaching a mass of 5 lbs. of lithofracteur in a case to the buffer of a railway wagon, which was allowed to run down an inclined plane, and came into collision with another wagon at rest on the rails, which latter was heavily loaded with stones, without any explosion resulting. Besides, the cost and labour in repairing drills, &c., for any given work are lessened by at least one-half. It is said to have the advantage over dynamite inasmuch as it does not become explosive at a temperature even under 8° centigrade, as has been asserted, but wrongfully, to be the case with dynamite. But as the manufacturers advise that the temperature of the material should not be allowed to fall below 10° centigrade, it must be concluded that, in common with dynamite, its explosion in such a case is a matter of some uncertainty. From trials which were made at the König's Mine, in Upper Silesia, its use was abandoned in favour of dynamite, the miners, who were paid by piece, declaring that they could not work any longer unless allowed to return to the use of dynamite. Mr. K. S. France, of Shrewsbury, has had it tried in connection with his quarries, and with satisfactory results. On the whole, it appears that lithofracteur must be considered as dynamite adulterated with the constituents of ordinary blasting powder, that its advantages are more nearly those of dynamite the less the adulteration, and that the greater the adulteration the less will be its advantages over gunpowder as compared with dynamite.

DUALIN.—Another nitroglycerine compound, which has lately been introduced to the mining public, and has come into somewhat extensive use, is that to which the name dualin has been given. It was brought out by Lieut. Dittmar, of Charlottenburg, Germany, in 1869. It is a yellowish brown powder, and appears to be a combination of nitroglycerine with Schultze's chemical powder, which, as we have already mentioned, consists of nitre and sawdust treated with concentrated nitric and sulphuric acids. Its composition has been given as 50 parts by weight of nitroglycerine, 50 parts of fine sawdust, and 20 of saltpetre. According to Lieut. Dittmar, and as appears probable from its composition, there is no liability of the spontaneous decomposition of the nitroglycerine, on account of the intimately mixed basic salt preventing the material becoming acid, and appears thus to be an attempt to put Prof. Sully's proposal into practice. As might have been expected from its composition, dualin possesses many properties in common with dynamite and lithofracteur. It does not explode in open air, but burns quietly away. When, however, it is placed in a confined space and ignited it explodes with violence. It is usually tamped and fired like ordinary blasting powder by straws or fuses. If the tamping is loose, or if it is fired under water, a percussion fuse must be used. The object of firing the dualin with straws or ordinary fuses, like powder, appears to be to save expense, and in so far to have an advantage over dynamite, which cannot be fired without the use of an expensive fuse and percussion cap. This apparent advantage constitutes, however, its chief defect when compared with dynamite, since by regularly using a percussion cap to ignite the dynamite an explosion of the whole charge is certain, whilst when a quick match is used to ignite the dualin in many cases it will burn away without explosion. When a complete explosion of dualin takes place the resulting gases have no injurious effects on the miners; when, however, the explosion is incomplete, and a burning away of the dualin takes place, the resulting gases have an irritating effect and injurious influence on the health of the miners. This is in complete accordance with experience obtained by its use in the mines of the Mörkisch Westphalian Company, near Iserlohn, and in several mines in Upper Silesia. All the advantages which dynamite and lithofracteur possess have been claimed for dualin. The great disadvantage in using dynamite as a blasting material in coal mines is that the explosion takes place so suddenly and violently shatters the coal, producing too much small coal. With the use of dualin, however, it is claimed, and according to trials at the König's Mine confirmed, that dualin gives a much greater percentage of large coal, probably on account of the smaller quantity (40 to 50 per cent.) which it contains. We have seen, however, that by lessening the percentage of nitroglycerine we can obtain a dynamite suitable, so far as strength goes, for blasting in coal mines. As the price of dualin is much less than that of dynamite, and its ignition by ordinary fuse costs less than that of dynamite, it is probable that it would much sooner come into general use, if it were not for the injurious and annoying effects of the gases disengaged when a partial explosion and burning away of the dualin takes place, and which often occurs. We are not aware what are the resulting gases produced by the explosion of various nitroglycerine compounds under various conditions, but in them we have sufficient grounds for explaining the conflicting statements regarding the gas produced, and their effects on the human system. It has been claimed by the discoverers as another advantage in the use of dualin in the place of dynamite that the former never becomes hard, but always retains its plastic condition during all temperatures. The truth of this assertion remains yet to be proved; indeed, it is greatly to be doubted.

From what we have said respecting the composition and properties of nitroglycerine, dynamite, dualin, &c., and gunpowder, it will appear that by varying the composition of the constituents we could make a compound which with a larger percentage of nitroglycerine would on the one hand approach nitroglycerine in its properties, but with a less percentage, would in the case of such compounds as dualin approach more nearly in its properties to gunpowder. Among these intermediate compounds we may notice some mixtures which Nobel has patented. The strongest of these patented compounds has the following composition:—63 parts of

boric nitrate; 12 parts of powdered coal, rich in hydrocarbons, saturated with 12 parts of nitroglycerine. Another, possessing nearly the same strength, is composed of 70 parts of boric nitrate, 10 parts of rosin, and 12 parts of nitroglycerine: 5 to 6 parts of sulphur are often added, for the same reasons that sulphur is used in the manufacture of gunpowder. The ignition takes place in the case of the other nitroglycerine compounds we have mentioned by means of a percussion fuse. A very common fallacy exists that the addition to dynamite of other explosive compounds will make the resulting compound stronger than dynamite. Any such addition of gunpowder, nitre, or other explosive substances, which are in themselves weaker than dynamite can only be considered as an adulteration, and such compounds cannot be expected to be stronger than dynamite.

The question will most probably have occurred to most persons why should the addition of such matters as the infusorial earth make dynamite and other nitroglycerine compounds less liable to explosion with a slight shock than nitroglycerine itself? According to Javal and Garnier, in the "Bulletin de la Société de l'Industrie Minérale," Paris, it is probably due to the same reason that a sand or earthwork wall is less affected by shot than a stone wall. The effect of the shot in the former case is confined to the spot where it strikes, burying itself a few yards beneath the surface, whilst in the latter case the shock is spread over some considerable distance, shattering the wall. So with dynamite, any shock or blow that it receives is spent in altering the position of the sand particles. In the case of pure nitroglycerine, whose elasticity as a fluid is nearly perfect, the shock is transmitted through the whole mass in its full intensity, the force being spent in vibrations rather than in changing the shape of the substance.

COMPOUNDS CONTAINING PICRIC ACID.

When pit coal is distilled the most abundant acid product given off is that commonly known as carbolic acid. The usual method is to collect the oil of tar, that distils over at a temperature of between 300° and 400°. This is treated with strong nitric acid. Long pale yellow brilliant rectangular plates or crystals of picric acid are precipitated, the solution is decanted, and the picric acid washed with cold water. The salts formed with picric acid crystallise with facility, and when heated decompose with violence.

Designolle has devised a blasting powder, in which instead of using saltpetre he makes use of a mixture of potassic carbonate and saltpetre, and the use of sulphur is entirely dispensed with. Its advantages are said to be that the products of combustion are not injurious, and that by proportioning the percentage of potassic carbonate it is possible to regulate the strength of the powder. It was proposed to manufacture ten sorts, the percentage of potassic carbonate varying from 8 to 20 per cent. The first was said to have the same strength as ordinary gunpowder. Its manufacture was similar to that of ordinary gunpowder. We are not acquainted with what the dangers were which attended its use, nor with any results actually obtained on trial in mines with it.

A similar powder (ammoniakrat), in which, in the place of potassic carbonate, ammoniac carbonate is used, has been devised by the Swedish chemist Morrin. It is a black, plastic, moist, and sticky substance, which is very difficult to bring to explosion by a flame, and most easily exploded by a blow, so that, like dynamite, its use may be considered as comparatively unattended with danger. It is said to have the advantage over dynamite that it does not become hard at low temperatures, which has, however, been contradicted, and according to experiments in the Swedish mines is said to have a much greater effect than dynamite, but of the effects of the gases melting from its explosion nothing has been reported. When it is stored for any great length of time it attracts moisture, loses its strength, and is subject to spontaneous decomposition, and after freezing, on being softened it becomes useless. These properties, unless removed, would prevent its general application to mining purposes.

GUNCOTTON.—Gun-cotton, or pyroxylin as it was originally called, was discovered by Schönbein, and prepared first from its solution in ether (collodion), but afterwards by treating vegetable fibres with nitric acid. The colourless material of the woody fibre of young plants, which is called "cellulose," is the compound, which by the action of nitric acid is converted into an explosive substance. Cellulose is obtained in the pure state from cotton or linen fibre, by boiling out the impurities with alkali, alcohol, ether, &c. If cotton be thrown in small portions at a time, into a mixture of equal volumes of strong sulphuric and nitric acids it does not appear to undergo any change, but on drying it is found to be very inflammable. It has, however, three atoms of the hydrogen replaced by nitric-peroxide, pyroxylin, or what is more commonly called gun-cotton, being the resulting product. The products of its combustion or explosion are carbonic acid, carbonic oxide, nitrous oxide, and water. It was usual at first to take guncotton which had been twisted in strings, and place it for 48 hours in concentrated nitric acid, or a mixture of nitric and sulphuric acids. After the acid had been pressed out it was placed in a stream of water for washing, in which it remained during several weeks, and then to cause its combustion so take place slowly it was treated with a dilute alkali, afterwards dried. The first great improvement in the preparation of guncotton by washing, and a later treatment with a dilute alkali is due to Lenk. During this treatment the appearance of the cotton has hardly changed whatever, though its chemical composition is so completely different, being rich in nitric-peroxide, that with access of air it explodes on ignition or by a smart blow. The temperature at which it first ignites varying between 50° and 150° centigrade, whilst gunpowder requires a temperature of 300° for ignition. Water, as is evident from the long washing it undergoes, does not change its composition or properties, but when kept for a great length of time it partially decomposes, and becomes less fit for use. According to experiments of Combes, Séguier, and others, its effect has been variously stated as four times, six times, and twice that of ordinary powder. For an equal effect it occupies less space than a charge of powder would, and requires, therefore, a shorter or a smaller bore hole.

On its first introduction guncotton possessed a great many drawbacks. Like nitroglycerine, it was dangerous whilst tamping, being liable to explosion from a sharp blow, it was liable to spontaneous decomposition if stored for any length of time, and, besides being much dearer than powder, the manufactured guncotton showed a great want of uniformity, its strength varying much, being sometimes greater sometimes less, and its effect was also too instantaneous. More lately many of these drawbacks were removed, and by mixing guncotton with cotton less or not at all explosive, or by subjecting it to compression, a more uniform mass, and a better and much more useful effect has been obtained. A great improvement in the manufacture of guncotton was the preparation of the cotton in a pulpy mass, similar to that of paper in paper manufacture, which was stirred with a little gum, and after drying was reduced to small grains. It has been extensively used at the stone quarry near Komorn, where stone for fortification work was quarried. It was made into solid cylindrical cartridges, by taking 66 grammes of cotton thread, and twisting the threads over one another, forming a cylinder 4 in. long and 2 in. in diameter. At Vienna, where it was employed for mining walls, the cartridges were made hollow by winding about 50 grammes of the cotton thread round a hollow cylinder of cardboard or cartridge paper, of 5 in. in length and 3 in. in diameter. The object of having a hollow cartridge was to ensure a quick and regular ignition, which is a matter of some importance with respect to guncotton. At Vienna the remarkable experience was obtained that bore holes with five pieces of hollow cartridge (each containing 50 grammes of cotton thread)—i.e., a charge of 250 grammes, 25 in. deep) gave the same results as six pieces of solid cartridge (each containing 66 grammes of cotton thread)—i.e., a charge of 400 grammes, 25 in. deep), owing, as above mentioned, to the more regular ignition of the cotton. The bore holes were made from 2 to 2½ in. in diameter, in order to admit the cartridge with ease, with a charge of from 200 to 900 grammes; besides the first plug and 2 in. of shavings a tamping of from 6 to 18 in. in depth was found sufficient.

* Vide Morgans on "Mining Tools," p. 200. Lockwood and Co.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND EAST WORCESTERSHIRE INSTITUTE OF MINING ENGINEERS.

A largely attended meeting of members was held at the Geological Museum, Dudley, on Monday.—Mr. THOS. PARTON, President, the chair. Mr. J. L. Gibbons, surveyor, &c., of Cannock, was unanimously elected a member. Mr. Wm. Blakemore, F.G.S., read further paper on the Faults of the South Staffordshire Coal Field.

REMARKS ON SOME OF THE CENTRAL FAULTS OF THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COAL FIELD.

As details of the faults of the South Staffordshire coal field have been so described by the late Mr. Beete Jukes in his practical and copious memoir, also by Mr. Roderick Murchison and Mr. Charles Twamley, F.G.S., in a very interesting paper that he read before the Dudley and Midland Geological and Scientific Society in 1865, it will be quite unnecessary for me to enter into a minute detail of the numerous faults which have made mining so difficult and expensive in our locality. Having previously in my Nos. 1 and 2 papers on the Faults of the South Staffordshire Coal Field given you a description of the eastern and western boundary faults, it only remains now for me to remind you of some of the principal faults in the interior of the district with which most of you are acquainted, and then to add a few practical remarks that I trust will not be altogether uninteresting to the Institute. The word fault is a term which originated with practical miners, and has been adopted by geologists as a scientific phrase, well, a roll, a dyke, a trouble, a horse-track, a knob, a jolly knob, or a boss, all have pretty much the same meaning, showing that there has been an interchange of some kind or other. I have a dictionary that gives the meaning of the word fault as a puzzle, and you will no doubt agree with me that there is nothing that puzzles a mining engineer more than some of these faults. Let us now draw your attention to some of the main faults. On reference to the southern part of the coal field you will recognise the Russell's Hall fault, which commences in the south of the Rowley Hills through Blackheath, and then curves round to the south-east for Halesowen, but if I am correctly informed it terminated before reaching this latter place. This is one of the most important faults of the district, having a downthrow to the west and south-west of between 400 ft. to 500 ft. The Brookmoor fault and the Brierley Hill fault are all faults of considerable magnitude, the course and character of the north and south faults are well known to all engineers of that district. Proceeding towards the north and east, we find a number of faults both small and great, but the first of any magnitude is one that has been recently discovered by Mr. Thomas Latham under the Rowley Hills, running from west to east their direction is just the opposite—more from north to south, troughs, and saddle-backs, and notably the Dudley Park trough. The Green and Horsefield fault runs from Tipton Green in the direction of Gold's Farm Works, and thence to West Bromwich, having a downthrow to the south of 50 yards in the deepest place.

The Wednesbury Oak and Paddock, and the Bails Hills are three great faults running from east to west. Two other faults running also from east to west, are the Spring Vale, and thence to the Fighting Cocks to the western boundary known as the Parkfield and Lanesfield fault, having a downthrow to the south from 180 to 220 ft.

The great Bentley fault commences on the east near Rushall, running thence in a westerly direction near the Bentley Heath Furnaces, Bentley Lanehead, Pool Hayes, and Perry Hall to the Moat House, where I have no reason to believe it terminates.

On the north of this fault several faults have been proved very recently, and have no doubt many others will be found within the next four or five years. Some of these have not yet been made public. Another, running almost in a north-south direction, passes through the Essington Lodge Colliery, with a downthrow to the west of 40 yards. A branch fault runs parallel with the great Bentley fault and is a downthrow of from 50 to 80 yards to the east, and brings in several valuable coal seams. The Fishley fault runs nearly due east and west from Parkfield and Lanesfield, and thence to Wyrley Bank, having a downthrow to the west of 15 to 60 yards. There is also a series of very peculiar faults, varying from 40 to 100 yards, in this interesting part of the coal field.

The Daw End and Linley fault traverses round the Silurian limestone Walsall and brings in those important coal measures to which reference has already been made in No. 1 paper, when dealing of the Walsall Wood and Aldridge districts.

It would only be wearisome to you and myself to have further detail of these faults. Most of them have been so correctly described, and are so well known to the majority of those present, that nothing can be said in addition to what is already known, but I trust that we shall take care to note what new faults discovered in the northern and newer part of the coal field. There are less suggested by the study of these faults both for practical and scientific study. As to their origin, there may be a variety of opinions, but it does appear that the primary cause of most of them is the presence of igneous, or green, rocks in the district. To use a military figure, it is the most formidable enemy that mines have to contend with. It has invaded our geological territory, making headquarters at the Rowley Hills, and forming several important detachments at Barrow Hill, Pow Hill, Wednesfield, Wyrley Bank, Bloxwich, and L. Bloxwich. There are points at which it can be seen, but the great body of it is produced by the undergrowth, which they have the only partially but entirely produced some of our most valuable seams of coal. As a practical mining engineer has to contend with which has produced such disastrous results. Although we have not been able to discover any crater by which the rock broken through the lower measures and intruded itself into its present or immediate position, yet I think the most feasible and reasonable opinion is that at some time or other it has broken away from its original position, and relieved itself by flowing in irregular masses over a very large extent of our coal field. There have been one or more of such outlets; but that as it may, we know that it is produced by mighty convulsions, dislocations, and upheavals in the earth's efforts to liberate itself. And hence, in all probability, the effects which we were produced by such causes. But as there is no evil without its admixture of good, so there is every reason to suppose that but for the elevation of the measures by this basaltic deposit we should have been deprived of that rich mine area thus exposed to our view; it, therefore, behoves us to overlook the misdeeds in the process, and regard the good results, not being ungrateful that have some bad coal, but thankful that we have so much good.

There is also sometimes an advantage in having a main fault running through a coal field, as a barrier to keep the water, as in our experience we frequently find it to be so; that is provided the mines are not worked too far from the line of fault, so as to break and fracture it, to destroy the otherwise impervious barrier. And here let me say that those principal faults that have been seen to form the boundaries of some of the districts for draining purposes have, I have been so weakened or pierced that they will be ineffectual to prevent the water from flowing from one district to another. I would, therefore, advise my friends always to approach a "fault" with caution, as they will be very likely to find the water and gas for some time ago in one of our collieries, and I have frequently found it to be so; that is provided the mines are not worked too far from the line of fault, so as to break and fracture it, to destroy the otherwise impervious barrier. 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is not generally absolutely wanting at the rolling mills or the mechanical construction establishments. Recent adjudications have afforded specious contingent of orders to several of the Belgian works. There is a good deal of discussion just now in Germany in respect to the relative advantages of protection and free trade. The Emperor William is said to incline to a moderate protectionist regime.

The French iron trade does not appear to have very much to complain of just at present. Orders arrive in a tolerably well-sustained fashion at the rolling-mills, as well in the Haute-Marne as in the North and East. Prices, however, do not improve. Merchants' iron, plates, and girders have been in some demand, but some other descriptions have, on the contrary, been rather neglected. The steel-works have their production engaged for several months in advance, thanks to some large orders which have given out by the great French railway companies. The exports of iron of various descriptions from France, as well direct as by warrant, amounted in the first eight months of this year to 113,000 tons, as compared with 139,500 tons in the corresponding period of 1876. The imports of cast-iron into France in the first eight months of this year amounted to 132,000 tons, as compared with 121,000 tons in the corresponding period of 1876. The imports of iron and plates were 35,900 tons, against 84,000 tons in the corresponding period of 1876; and the imports of steel were 3300 tons, against 3500 tons in the corresponding period of 1876.

PEAT FUEL FOR CORNISH MINE.

The efforts to utilise the immense peat deposits found in various parts of the world have been so generally unsuccessful that there is some indisposition to give fresh suggestions even a reasonable amount of consideration, although the cause of failure in most cases has been almost the same—it has been attempted to use it at too great a distance from the place of production or manufacture. The natural consequence has been that the cost of carriage or freight has consumed all, and sometimes more than all, the profit. This error has been carefully avoided in the project which has been formed for developing the invention of Mr. JOHN HOWARD, A.I.C.E., of Topsham, Devon, to which reference was made in the *Mining Journal* of June 30. He proposes to utilise the enormous peat deposits on Dartmoor, and to sell it for the locomotives of the local railways and for the mines in the neighbouring county of Cornwall. Assuming Mr. Howard's process to prove practicable when applied upon the full commercial scale, and that the fuel can really be produced at a price which he anticipates, there can be nothing to prevent its general adoption within easy reach of the works to an extent which will make his business a very prosperous one. Mr. Howard states that from the completion of a thorough personal investigation and trials of the production of the fuel he is enabled to say that the return on the capital invested for that purpose will be far greater than any other known commercial undertaking of such a sound and continuous character. These results, he adds, are certainly placed beyond the scope of speculation by the fact that the vast beds of peat are now close to a railway in the midst of localities where a large quantity of fuel is consumed, and a very long distance from places where any coal is found; added to which is the important feature that the cost of peat fuel by his process is not more than one-quarter the cost of coal.

With regard to the quantity, it is estimated that in the United Kingdom there are no less than 6,000,000 acres of peat bog, varying from 3 to 30 ft. in depth; but there are no places possessing such natural advantages for the conversion of peat as the peat grounds of Dartmoor. The peat found there is of a superior quality, and of a density hitherto unknown, and the supply almost inexhaustible, while the iron ores (hitherto valueless from their isolated position) would if fuel for smelting could be found on the spot at once become an important article of commerce. The position of the peat grounds is in the heart of the county of Devon, close to large and populous towns at present dependent for their supply of fuel from the far-distant coal fields. The railway facilities in respect to Dartmoor are exceedingly favourable, as its borders are skirted by the South Devon Railway, and within the last 15 months the London and South-Western Company have opened up a new line from Exeter to Plymouth, which passes and has stations within a short distance of the best peat ground on the moor, hitherto inaccessible. The opening of this new line of railway will cause these and other valuable products of Dartmoor to be utilised, as it opens up a market along the lines in connection with it, and provides easy access for shipment, thus offering great facilities for the financial success of converting peat into a valuable and commercial fuel. There is sufficient peat on Dartmoor (of the high class so essential) to produce 90,000 tons per annum of peat coal or charcoal for 500 years, while its removal would confer a lasting boon to the West of England by removing the difficulty which forms the greatest obstacle to the successful cultivation of the moor.

Already the preliminary steps are being taken to ensure an easy means of transport for the manufactured peat fuel by arranging for the construction of a suitable tramway; and it appears that the proposed route for a tramway from the peat ground on Dartmoor to Bridestowe Station, on the London and South-Western Railway, was inspected last week by Mr. W. Jacomb, chief engineer of that company, assisted by Mr. B. J. Fisher, district engineer, accompanied by Mr. J. Howard and several others. The shareholders of the above railway may certainly congratulate themselves on the prospect of having a branch line into almost inexhaustible coal fields, which branch, on its completion, would not only send a large traffic over their system, but would, no doubt, place within the reach of their company the means of effecting an immense saving in the cost of fuel; and the proposed tramway is important from the fact that it would give the company an ample supply of peat fuel, and as this is free from sulphur it must of necessity follow that the decrease in the cost of maintaining their locomotives would form a large item.

To the Cornish miners the great interest in peat would arise from its value as a steam fuel, and that it is applicable for this purpose. Mr. Howard shows by quoting the opinion of the engineers of the Belfast and Northern Railway of Ireland, who report "the average peat fuel used per mile in experimental trials to be 21 lbs., whilst the average weight of coal used (mixture of two parts Welsh and one of Scotch) was 25 lbs. per mile in three months. In another month the average was 26 lbs. of coal per mile. Thus the practical result was that 21 lbs. of peat raised steam for a mile of running while it took 26 lbs. of coal to do the same work." This was considered highly satisfactory in favour of peat. Great tests have also been made as to the practicabilities of making gas from peat. Mr. Leon Foucault finds peat gas to possess nearly 34 times the illuminating power of coal gas, and the late Dr. Letheby reporting generally upon the value of peat described the results obtained as highly satisfactory, indicating that a large percentage of valuable products may be obtained from peat. The gas from this material (14,000 cubic feet to 1 ton) was found to be entirely free from sulphur, and in this respect it has a great advantage over coal gas, for the products of combustion are wholly harmless in respect of their action on inorganic matter, such as books, drapery, and other perishable fabrics. In the use of peat fuel there is no opaque smoke evolved no sulphuric acid set free. The heat is quickly raised, and quickly diffused; the ashes never clinker so as to choke the bars of the furnace, and the peat does not contain metallic sulphur or other substance that is likely to produce spontaneous combustion. When the details of the process are made known a better opinion can be formed as to the probability of its proving successful, but in the meantime Mr. Howard states that the fact that there are millions of tons of the fuel close by where it is required for consumption, that the cost is but a few shillings per ton, and that its capabilities as a fuel are so favourable places beyond doubt the value of such a commercial undertaking as this.

Messrs. Hoblyn, Wilson, and Co., Leadenhall-street, have been appointed the sole agents in London of the Barrow Steel Wire Company, Barrow-in-Furness (Messrs. Cookes and Swinnerton).

Mr. J. R. Scott, the Registrar of the London Coal Market, has published the following statistics of imports of coals into the port and district of London by sea, railway, and canal during September:—														
By sea.	Ships.	Tons.	By Railway and Canal.	Tons.										
Newcastle	171	137,400	London & North-Western	119,340										
Seaham	33	17,928	Great Northern	73,301										
Sunderland	88	62,443	Great Western	81,779										
Middlesbrough	3	1,173	Midland	150,171										
Hartlepool	77	26,752	Great Eastern	46,304										
Scotch	3	730	South-Eastern	1,124										
Welsh	5	1,439	Grand Junction Canal	430										
Yorkshire	2	1,293												
Small coal.	8	2,067												
Cinders	2	167												
Total	416	252,289	Total	472,471										
Imports—Sept., 1876	448	252,008	Imports during Sept., 1876.	466,917										
Comparative Statement, 1876 and 1877.														
By Sea.	Ships.	Tons.	By Railway and Canal.	Tons.										
Jan. 1 to Sept. 30, 1876	4098	2,340,750	Jan. 1 to Sept. 30, 1877	2,863,973										
Jan. 1 to Sept. 30, 1877	3891	2,224,935	Jan. 1 to Sept. 30, 1876	3,728,226										
Decrease—1877	237	115,815	Increase—1877	135,520										
Mr. J. R. Scott has also published an export list, showing the distribution of coal imported into the port or district of London by sea, rail, and canal, and afterwards exported coastwise or to foreign parts, or sent beyond limits of London district by rail or inland navigation during September:—														
Railway-borne coal passing in transit through district				Tons	84,335									
Sea-borne coal exported to British possessions, or to foreign parts, or to the coast				Tons	20,413									
Ditto, sent beyond limits by railway					7,697									
Ditto, by canal and inland navigation					1,936									
Railway-borne coal exported to British possessions, or to foreign parts, or the coast					33,952									
Ditto, by rail beyond district					49									
Ditto, by canal and inland navigation					31									
Sea-borne coal brought into port and exported in same ships					187									
Total quantity of coal conveyed beyond limits of coal duty district during September, 1877					158,132									
Ditto, September, 1876					163,115									
Comparative Statement, 1876 and 1877.														
Total distribution of coal from January 1 to Sept. 30, 1876					1,469,564									
Ditto, January 1 to Sept. 30, 1877					1,397,419									
Decrease in the present year					12,145									
General Statement.														
Increase in coals imported by railway and canal during the present year					135,752									
Less decrease by sea					115,915									
Add decrease in coals exported					12,145									
Total increase in trade within London district during present year					32,082									

gram received the day before the interruption the quantity was estimated at 520 tons. These moderate shipments and a good demand have caused very considerable reduction in the total visible supplies, and holders have not neglected this favourable opportunity of pushing prices higher. We quote to-day Straits and Australian, 66s. 10s. On the 26th ult. the Dutch Trading Company sold 51,635 slabs Banca at 40½ d. to 40½ d., average 40 3/8 d., and 3490 slabs Billiton at 35½ d. to 39 d. English is in improved demand. Below we give our usual statistics.

	1877.	1877.	1878.	1878.
	Sept. 1.	Oct. 1.	Sept. 1.	Oct. 1.
Foreign in London	10,074	9,271	7,989	5,595
Banca in Holland	915	1,353	1,399	950
Billiton in Holland	1,800	1,439	984	1,030
Afloat for Europe, Straits, advised by mail and wire	50	50	600	1,250
Afloat, Australian ditto	1,850	2,100	1,690	1,150
Afloat, Billiton	800	800	750	720
Banca in Trading Company's hands	1,445	864	1,208	2,275
Banca afloat, by sailing vessels	70	20	219	600
Total	18,554	15,897	14,689	13,570

	Aug. 31.	Sept. 30.	Sept. 30.	Sept. 30.
	1877.	1877.	1878.	1878.
Straits and Australian, spot	8,758	9,931	7,540	5,583
Ditto, landing	1,309	238	373	293
Straits afloat	55	55	630	1,140
Australian, afloat	1,738	2,210	1,700	1,269
Banca, on warrants	915	1,353	1,299	950
Ditto, Trading Co.'s hands	1,445	864	1,208	2,275
Ditto, afloat (by sailing vessels only)	69	19	219	622
Billiton, spot	1,800	1,443	951	919
Ditto, afloat	1,000	500	1,000	1,000
Australian tin in Holland	700	677	795	795
Total	17,510	16,694	15,705	13,772

	Aug. 31.	Sept. 30.	Sept. 30.	Sept. 30.
	1877.	1877.	1878.	1878.
Deliveries during the month in London	793	996	749	1,193
Ditto, Holland	801	478	610	317

	Aug. 31.	Sept. 30.	Sept. 30.	Sept. 30.
	1877.	1877.	1878.	1878.
Total	1,594	1,474	1,359	1,510

	Aug. 31.	Sept. 30.	Sept. 30.	Sept. 30.
	1877.	1877.	1878.	1878.
Prices of Straits	£85	£86	£72	£86
Shipments from Straits, in September	35	35	35	35
Ditto, Australia, ditto	700	700	700	700

	Aug. 31.	Sept. 30.	Sept. 30.	Sept. 30.
	1877.	1877.	1878.	1878.
Shipments from Straits to London	3,350	2,455	4,736	4,736
Shipments from Australia to London	8,207	6,625	5,045	5,045
Deliveries of foreign tin in London	10,551	7,548	8,592	8,592

London, Oct. 1. A. STRAUSS AND CO.

THE IRON AND STEEL INSTITUTE—EXCURSIONS.

THE THARSIS COPPER EXTRACTING WORKS.

These works are situated at Hebburn-on-Tyne, and cover an area of about 23 acres. They belong to the Tharsis Sulphur and Copper Company, whose head quarters are at Glasgow. They constitute one of the six large extracting works erected for the purpose of dealing with the residues of the pyrites which the company import from Spain. These pyrites consist of sulphur and iron with copper, and small quantities of other metals. They are first supplied to the alkali and manure makers, who burn off the sulphur, converting it into sulphuric acid. It is after this has been done that the residues, consisting principally of peroxide of iron with copper, are operated on in the works under notice. The *modus operandi* is briefly as follows:—The ore is mixed with rock-salt and ground to a suitable size; from the grinding mill it passes over the top of the calcining furnace, into which it is tipped, and is subjected to a low red-heat until the copper has been thereby converted into a soluble form. The escaping gases are conducted into condensers; the ore is conveyed by means of convenient tramways passing along the furnaces to the washing tanks; water is first employed, then acids from the condensers, and the process is continued until the copper has been extracted from the ore. The residue, consisting of peroxide of iron, is then removed and sold to the producers of pig and wrought iron. The liquors obtained by the washing are conducted through canals running along the tanks to other tanks filled with scrap iron, where the process of precipitating the copper is effected. The copper is deposited in fine particles on the iron, and as this latter gets dissolved the former gradually fills the tank. It is then removed and taken to a place where it is washed, so as to separate any remaining pieces of iron, which are returned to the precipitating tanks, while the precipitate itself is thereby divided into several classes. The precipitate, after having been thus separated, is conveyed to the refinery, where, by a series of roastings and meltings, it becomes free from impurity, and is cast into the various shapes required by the manufacturer—such as ingots, bars, and cakes. The works afford employment for 400 men, while 24 engines, eight large and 16 donkey engines, of an aggregate of 250-horse power, are used. The annual production of purple ore is 50,000 tons, the quantity of burnt ore treated to produce this being 51,282 tons. The annual production of copper is 5000 tons. The company own a similar, but somewhat smaller, establishment in the neighbourhood, at Willington, where they employ 184 men; use engines of 70 aggregate horse-power, and six donkey engines; produce 21,400 tons of purple ore annually and from 21,984 tons of burnt ore; the annual yield of copper being 1784 tons. The total annual yield of the two works is thus 6784 tons.

THE GATESHEAD IRONWORKS.

These works, which are the property of Messrs. Hawks, Crawshaw and Sons, were established by Mr. William Hawks, in 1748. They were at first, like many other industrial establishments in this country, in a very small way of business. Their operations were confined to one small shop, and consisted exclusively of black ironmongery; but from time to time they were enlarged to meet the requirements of the times. When iron chain cables were first brought into use for sailing ships by the inventor, Capt. Brown, R.N., this firm was one of the first to engage in their manufacture, and from that time until the present the manufacture of chains and anchors has been carried on with great energy. So great has been the success of this department of the works that the Lords of the Admiralty were induced a few years ago to contract with Messrs. Hawks, Crawshaw, and Sons for the chains required for the British Navy, and the quality of goods supplied has given the most unqualified satisfaction. When the late Mr. Nasmyth brought out his patent steam-hammer, the Gateshead Ironworks were the first in the North of England to adopt it; and when rolling-mills were few and far between, a small mill might have been seen at the Gateshead Ironworks turning out its "ferry-ropes," which were then looked upon as a curiosity. The old mill, which was of very limited proportions, was replaced many years ago by others of much larger dimensions, capable of producing upwards of 400 tons of finished iron weekly, and having 48 furnaces. About 12 years ago the present proprietors put down a mill for making boiler-plates, with 44 furnaces, and capable of producing about 200 tons of plates weekly. The engineering works undertaken by this firm have been both varied and extensive. They were the first, and for a considerable time the only makers of engines for tug boats in this district—having commenced in the year 1821; and many of the largest colliery pumping engines were also designed and manufactured at the Gateshead works. About 30 years ago the present proprietors, Messrs. George and Edmund Crawshaw, joined the works. The first contract of any importance entered into after this was the magnificent High Level Bridge, which spans the Tyne between Newcastle and Gateshead, and stands as a monument of the engineering skill and ingenuity of the designer, the late Mr. Robert Stephenson, and also of the engineering firm who carried out the contract with so much energy and success. As it will yet be some time before this great work ceases to be ranked amongst the marvels which human industry has accomplished, we may mention a few particulars which at the present time may be interesting. This contract was fulfilled within a period of three years, although in strength and durability the erection may compare with any of those mighty buildings which in former times were the work almost of centuries: 8550 tons of iron were used in its construction, of which 5050 tons were cast, and the remainder wrought. The bridge is 112 ft. 6 in. from high-water mark to the upper parapet. It consists of six arches of 125 ft. span each, and two approaches formed of cast-iron pillars and beams in keeping with the arches. The total length of the viaduct is 1375 ft. The double roadways are a novel and striking feature in this structure. The upper platform, which serves as a roof for the lower, is appropriated as part of the line of the North-Eastern Railway Company, and the lower platform is a bridge for ordinary traffic. Since that time the engineering department has been very much extended, and large contracts carried out for wrought-iron bridges, screw pile piers, jetties, and lighthouses, in India, Australia, China, South America, Japan, Batavia, &c. On the Poti and Tiflis Railway alone upwards of 100 bridges were erected. A large portion of the above were made to the order of Mr. George Wills, C.E., North-street, Westminster, who succeeded to the business of the late Mr. Mitchell, the inventor and patentee of the "screw" — an invention which is comparatively little known, in comparison with numerous important works which have owed their existence to this simple but ingenious contrivance, and which could not have been erected upon any other principle. Messrs. Hawks, Crawshaw, and Sons have also manufactured and erected pumping-engines for waterworks, at Hull, Scarborough, Nottingham, Darlington, Altona, &c., and also a large number of steam condensing marine engines on board ships. They have just shipped a large bridge for the South Australian Government, and have in hand two draw-bridges for the Hull Dock Company; marine engines of 180 and 200-horse-power, besides two large pumping-engines and boilers for the York Waterworks Company, to the design of Messrs. T. and C. Hawksley. They are also commencing to make

and put on board ship a pair of marine engines, on the Perkins's system, to work up to a pressure of 400 lbs. per square inch. The last bridge erected by this firm in the neighbourhood was for the Scotswood and Wylam Railway Company, across the Tyne, where their system joins the Carlisle line, and was of unique design. It was a bridge of a single line of rail, and consisted of one span of 240 ft. in the clear. The total weight of iron was only 310 tons. It was erected by Colonel Hutchinson, of the Board of Trade, to the most severe tests ever put upon this class of structure. The tests were considered highly satisfactory, and the contractors were much commended for the manner in which the work had been carried out. The number of men employed at the Gateshead Ironworks is about 2500.

THE ELSWICK WORKS.

Of the various places of note visited by the members of the Iron and Steel Institute during their annual meeting, the chief in interest and extent undoubtedly were the Ordnance and Engineering Works of Sir William Armstrong. The establishment at Elswick has attained a world-wide reputation as much for the construction of appliances for the promotion of commercial industry and social welfare as the manufacture of destructive implements of war. A description of the rise and progress of these works, indeed, would form a most interesting volume in the brilliant history of successful English enterprise. Such a description is, of course, beyond the scope of this article, but we may briefly epitomise a few facts in reference to the past and present position of the works which cannot fail to prove of interest. The works were commenced in 1847, and occupied but a comparatively small space of ground, about the middle of the present extensive range of buildings. From that time for some years the progress of the place is a history of the introduction of hydraulic machinery into common use in various branches of industry. The application of water-pressure as a motive power for machinery, like every new truth in embryo, met with a very cold reception, slight encouragement, and some amount of dogged opposition. In time, however, as the value of the inventor's suggestion became too patent to be rejected, the project was taken up, and as warmly welcomed as it had been previously coolly received. It was found that as an effective and inexpensive motor for lifting heavy weights or exerting stupendous power water had enormous advantages over other known forces, and it was soon called into use for working the machinery of warehouses, docks, and railway stations. As each succeeding year brought about some improvement in the method of applying the power, so its area of usefulness extended, and the Elswick works extended in proportion. In 1858 the Ordnance department was added, and this gave a further need for extensions. One addition after another has followed until the present proportions of the establishment were reached. At present the Elswick factory has a river frontage of over one mile in length, whilst the various fitting, erecting, and finishing shops, foundries, forges, and blast-furnaces extend in an almost unbroken line for the greater distance of a mile and a half. The number of men employed in the works when in full operation is, we believe, nearly 4000, while in 1850 or 1851 it did not exceed 300.

Probably the most interesting feature in the Elswick Works is the wonderful arrangement of the works themselves. The ingenious labour-saving contrivances which meet the eye at every turn are only equalled in interest by the admirable manner in which the various departments have been designed to suit their special requirements. Had the works been originally planned and designed for their present dimensions instead of growing in size from time to time it is hardly possible to conceive that the arrangements could have been more perfect. The proximity of the river and the North-Eastern system to the works has been of great use to the proprietors, who have duly taken advantage of it. A complete network of rails traverses the works from end to end, and by means of small tank locomotives, or hydraulic capstans, heavy machinery and guns in the course of construction can be transported from one portion of the building to another with as much facility as one may move a box upon a level board. Two jetties run out into the river, and at each of these the water-pressure system enables a single workman by the aid of hydraulic cranes to do the work of a great number with the most perfect ease. One of these jetties is used for transferring heavy ordnance to the holds of vessels, and upon this is erected the hydraulic shears capable of lifting the 100-ton guns. It was impossible for the members of the Institute who visited the works to minutely inspect the whole of them in the time devoted to the excursion, and arrangements were made whereby visitors might witness the principal features, especially in connection with the construction of the famous 100-ton gun. A special train from the central station conveyed the members into the centre of the works, so that on alighting they were enabled to commence the inspection without loss of time. They were first shown the main coil, placed and shrank upon one of the large guns, constructed for the Italian Government. This gun is the third of a series of eight 100-ton guns which will be turned out at Elswick. The manufacture of these guns is exceedingly interesting, as it is an unparalleled feat of artillery engineering. The Government Arsenal, at Woolwich, has recently turned out the 81-ton gun, the construction of which was a very difficult task, not only at home but abroad with the keenest interest. Every stage of its growth was recorded; the implements used in "rearing" it were described with minutest detail, and illustrations were published showing the various operations. While the world had its eyes turned to Woolwich and its 81-ton gun Elswick quietly constructed an "infant" of 100 tons, brought it to perfection, and shipped it to Italy, and made no fuss about it whatever. The maturing of the remaining portion of the "family infants" is proceeding in an equally unostentatious manner. The process of making these guns is a very curious one, though, owing to the ingeniousness of the members who witnessed the later stages, the guns consist of a long tube surrounded by a succession of coils, known in the works as the "clothing," which increase in number near the breech until the implement has somewhat the appearance of a gigantic soda-water bottle. The tube is first forged in solid shaft, and then bored by powerful machinery. The coils are constructed from long bars of specially prepared iron, and placed upon the tube, into the end of which, the breech, a solid plug is screwed. The process first to be witnessed was, as already stated, the shrinking of the main coil on to one of the guns. The 28-ton coil was placed upon a specially prepared pit, with one end projecting some feet above the level of the ground. The coil, when sufficiently heated, is placed upon an iron truck and conveyed from the furnace. It is then hoisted by a crane and lowered to its proper position upon the gun, where it is shrank upon it like a tyre.

After seeing this coil put on the party proceeded to an adjoining forge, where they were shown the process of making a similar coil for another gun. The coils are made from bars of iron ranging from 150 to 170 ft. in length, and weighing something like 28 tons each. The process of making these coils is a very curious one, and is a long narrow furnace by means of which the bars are heated, and one end is fixed upon a roller or barrel, and simply wound up like a watch chain. The roller is then lifted by means of a crane, and suspended perpendicularly over a pit, so as to allow the coil to slip off. The next process is that of welding the coil, and for that purpose it is bowled away to another forge and placed in a gigantic furnace. When it is hot it is again brought out and subjected to the battering of an enormous steam hammer—the largest hammer, we believe, in the world. This has the effect of welding the thread of the coil together, and making the whole piece solid and strong.

The forge in which this operation took place proved a most attractive feature to the visitors. Everything in it is upon a gigantic scale. The great hammer stands unrivalled. Something like 120 tons of iron are buried in the ground to form the anvil. The head or block weighs 30 tons, and steam at a pressure of 50 lbs. per inch can be applied to assist the blows. The stroke is 12 ft. 6 in. It is entirely under the control of one man, who, by exerting as much power as he would require to depress the key of a piano, can strike the heated coil a terrific blow sufficient to crush it, or pat it gently, as he would pat the back of a stout fellow. There are four furnaces for the hammer, with doors, made of brick and iron, nearly as large as the side of a labourer's cottage, and the tongue used for pulling out the coils would reach across Grey-street. The furnaces, we may state, are like the whole of those used in the Elswick works—constructed upon Siemens's regenerative principle. The coils are moved from the furnaces to the anvil by means of powerful hydraulic cranes. There are four of these cranes, and the whole of them are under the command of one man, who can swing them right or left, or move the load up or down, just as he pleases, without moving from his post. From this forge the coils are taken to the wheel of the great Gating gun, which is an interesting implement, like torpedoes, may be described as the labour-saving machines of modern warfare.

They consist of ten rifle barrels fixed side by side in a circular framework, and mounted on a light carriage. The process of loading and firing is carried out by a very ingenious contrivance, the operator simply having to turn a handle. At a fairly moderate rate of speed 500 shots per minute may be fired at an advancing foe, but with a little extra exertion upon the handle it is possible to double that number. The party was next conducted to a shop, where the guns, with their carriages, are made. Four hydraulic cranes for Her Majesty's ship *Inflexible*, and others for the 100-ton guns, were here seen in course of construction. From this shop the visitors proceeded to the ammunition department, where they witnessed the process of making shot and shells for the ordnance, and amongst others some projectiles for the large Italian guns. These missiles weigh 2000 lbs., or close upon 1 ton each, the charge of powder required to propel them being something like 4½ cwt. The 100-ton gun with this charge is, we believe, capable of developing a velocity of between 35,000 and 38,000 ft. per second. The visitor next had an opportunity of inspecting the forges and the gigantic plant which are being turned out. In this department there are some splendid cranes, so arranged that a load can be transferred from one to the other and conveyed all round the building, if necessary, by the simple process of adjusting a few levers. These cranes, and the whole of the hydraulic machinery in the works, in fact, are connected with one system.

The party was now taken by an engine down to the river side to inspect the hydraulic shears erected upon the jetty. This shears is the largest in existence, and is capable of lifting a weight of 120 tons. A piston, which it is the direct-acting piston, which takes the place of the ordinary chain. By means of this perfect steadiness is gained, and greater safety is insured than with the chain, where one faulty weld would spoil all. The operation of lifting a heavy weight was shown, and visitors had an opportunity of observing the wonderful simplicity by which the powerful piece of mechanism can be put in motion. A Swedish gun-boat at present lies off the jetty, whilst she is being fitted with hydraulic machinery for working her guns. A visit to the finishing and machine shops brought the inspection of the ordnance department to a close. Here the processes of boring and rifling the tubes of the guns, planing the external parts, cutting the breech-screws, and giving the finishing touches to the weapons previously to shipping them, take place. Not the least interesting feature in this department is the gigantic lathe for turning the 100-ton guns, probably the largest lathe ever made.

The further progress of the party was amidst weapons of peace. The first department visited was that in which the heavy girders and ironwork are constructed. It was here that the new swing bridge across the Tyne was made, and the bridge being erected across Jesmond. Dens is still in course of construction. Passing thence on to the jetty, visitors had an opportunity of seeing the movable hydraulic crane constructed for railways and quays. The difficulty of making a hydraulic crane which might be moved from point to point has been overcome in the construction of this ingenious contrivance, by means of an adjusting feed-pipe, and the crane may be used with as much facility as the ordinary steam travelling crane. Passing next to the erecting shop, the visitors were shown the construction of hydraulic engines of different kinds in various stages of manufacture, amongst others, one of the engines for the Dublin revolving gun turret. There are also several other interesting shops in this department which were

open to inspection, and in one of them the operation of the hydraulic engine was shown.

The hydraulic squeezer has been constructed for the purpose of carrying out the Siemens's puddling process with Danks's furnaces, and attains much more power than the ordinary squeezer. This admirable machine has been invented to meet a difficulty experienced in the puddling of iron when it leaves the furnace. It is a combination of a squeezer with those of the steam-hammer. It may be compared to a powerful steam-hammer set horizontally instead of perpendicularly. The force is exerted in the form of a resistance steady pressure instead of a sudden blow. The bloom is conveyed direct from the furnace to what may be termed the squeezer by means of a sliding carriage moved by hydraulic power. The side of this floor stands an immense square block of iron. One side is stationary, and may be compared to the anvil; the other side is movable backwards and which will measure (say) 5 feet by 2 feet 6 inches, has been conveyed from the furnace, and deposited upon the floor before mentioned, the movable block of iron is immediately made to move forward. It soon comes in contact with the heated iron, and pushes it along. The iron coming in contact with the pressure takes place a square iron trap in the floor underneath the movable block returns to its place, and at that moment the movable block relinquishes its hold upon the iron, and the iron trap then opens again, and the iron is able head up returns to the charge, and puts forth another squeeze, ready after the operation.

The next process is to turn the metal again. It has been turned over; it requires to be turned round. The machine is prepared for the emergency, and depends over the floor, but out of the drift of the sliding-block. When the puddle ram. To the end of this is attached a horizontal disc full of iron pins, which are fitted some half-dozen or more thick iron pins. These pins in turn are supported by their heads, and are supported by their heads. To turn them imparted. The ball is caught by the pins, and is towed round the quired extent. This done, the disc and pins ascend and are towed round the able squeezer, which, coming forward, again repeats the disc. This process repeated again as often as required, the ball being either thrown over by the disc or squeezed, or slowed round by the pins of the suspended disc. The pins are fitted loosely in their sockets, so that those which touch upon the small rim in the descent slide up instead of succumb to it. The pins have a stroke of 6 ft. 6 in., and the cylinder in which it moves weighs 22 tons, is capable of giving a squeeze of no less than 750 tons, which may be considered tolerably warm embrace. In order to economise power, a small auxiliary cylinder is provided. This merely overcomes the *vis inertia* of the block of iron, and carries it forward to the point of contact with the bloom, when the big cylinder comes into operation, and exerting its gigantic power performs the squeeze. All the motions of the squeezer, as well as the iron carrier, are under hydraulic power, and are under the control of one man. In order to show the operation of the machine, a block of lead was used to represent the bloom. An inspection of the Elswick Works could not be given without a visit to the magnificent engines by which motive power is given to the various departments. There are three Corliss engines of about 175 indicated horse-power each. The belting, which is of extraordinary width, is carried underground to the various shops. The boilers to supply the engines are all multibular, and fitted with Duke's patent revolving furnaces.

WATSON BROTHERS' MINING CIRCULAR.

Ten years ago the weekly information which had previously been published for a great number of years in *WATSON BROTHERS' MINING CIRCULAR* was transferred to the columns of the *Mining Journal*, the following announcement; which is now reproduced in consequence of the numerous letters and enquiries handed to them in reply to one which appeared in the *Journal* on the 11th of the Mine.

The great extension of mining business, the difficulty so often complained of by country shareholders in getting accurate and disinterested information by the state of Cornish and Foreign Mines, and of the financial and political mining companies generally, have induced Messrs. WATSON BROTHERS to transfer their Circular now published in the *Mining Journal* more extensively known to state.

That they issue daily to clients and others who apply for it a Price List (compiled to most of the London and country papers), giving the closing prices of Mining Shares up to Four o'clock.

They also buy and sell shares for immediate cash or for the usual settlement in all Mines dealt in on the Mining and Stock Exchange, at the market prices of the day, free of all charges for commission. They also, in the same terms, in the Public Funds, Railways, Telegraphs, and all other securities dealt in upon the Stock Exchange.

Having agents in all the mining districts, they are constantly getting acquainted with the state of the mines, and will also obtain special reports of any particular mine for their clients, for the inspecting agent's fee of £2 2s.

In the year 1843, when mining was almost unknown to the general attention was first called to its advantages, when properly conducted, a "Compendium of British Mining," commenced in 1837, and published by Mr. WATSON, F.G.S., author of "Gleanings among Mines and Metals," "Records of Ancient Mining," "Cornish Notes" (first series, 1862), "Cornish Notes" (second series, 1863), "The Progress of Mining," with Statistics of Mining Interest, annually for 21 years, &c., &c. In the Compendium, published in 1843, Mr. WATSON was the first to recommend the system of a "dividing interest" in mining, ensuring the success in the aggregate, and the success in the individual mine. WATSON BROTHERS have always a selected list on hand. Perhaps at no period in the annals of mining has there been more peculiar need of experienced advice in regard to mines and sharedealing than there is at present, and from the lengthened experience of Messrs. WATSON BROTHERS, who have been emboldened to offer, thus publicly, their best services and advice to all concerned with mines and mining.

Messrs. WATSON BROTHERS are daily asked their opinion of particular mines, as well as to recommend mines to investors or speculators in, and their advice and recommendation to the best of their judgment and as founded on the best practical advice they can obtain from the mining districts, they will not be held responsible, nor subject to blame, if results always equal the expectations they may have held out in a property so fluctuating as mining.

WATSON BROTHERS,
MINEOWNERS, STOCK AND SHARE DEALERS,
1, ST. MICHAEL'S ALLEY, CORNHILL, LONDON.

WHEAL GRENVILLE, AND SOUTH CONDURROW.—The letter "C. W." in last week's *Journal*, and the fact that two members of the committee of South Condurrow now hold 1100 shares in Wheal Grenville, and are anxious to get upon and control the management, calls to our remembrance a project which the writer advocated in the *Mining Journal* of Aug. 14, 1875. The letter will be found on page 884 of the *Journal* of that year, and is headed "A" and "B" referred to South Condurrow. "B" to Wheal Grenville, was well known and discussed at the time, but through jealousy and disinclination on the part of shareholders and officials the proposed was not carried out. Had it been so there can be no doubt that at this moment "A" and "B" Consols would have been the finest mines in Cornwall, instead of one of them having been "work upwards" for ore, and the other having to provide for enormous expenditure that would never have been required, course, at that time neither company would acknowledge the justice of our remarks, and we got pretty well abused by both parties making them; but let anyone read the letter now, as given before, he will be able to judge how the present condition of both mines justified them—the advantages that South Condurrow would have met with, and the outlay of many thousands of pounds, it would have saved Grenville. We only add that the letter was written as a thorough investigation into the working plans of both mines. It did not suit the managers of either of them at that time to acknowledge its truth. Copy of the letter referred to:—

"A" AND "B."

SIR.—There are two mines in Cornwall that I will call "A" and "B." They adjoin each other, and are on the same lode, which is the richest and largest in the county. The cost of working these mines is about 25000l. per month. "A" returns 40 tons of tin per month and makes a profit, but has power and means of returning double the quantity if the stuff could be got. "B" returns about 15 tons per month at a loss, but could raise more than double the quantity if it had more power and means of returning it. "A" has the 90 fms. deep, when it passes the boundary and enters into "B," therefore, can go on making returns above the 90, and a profit so long as the comparatively shallow ground lasts. "B" has spent a large sum of money in proving the same lode to be 160, where it is richest in the bottom. But to work it to profit, and as the large extent of ground open fully justifies, powerful machinery both for pumping and stamping (both of "A" possesses) must be erected at a considerable expense to shareholders.

Thus, as "A" and "B" now stand, they are of very little value to the shareholders of either, but amalgamate them and "B" Consols would become the finest mining property in Cornwall. The costs of working them in this way would be something like 5000l. per month less than at present, and the returns could be got up to 80 or 100 tons of tin per month; 80 tons a month 500l. per ton, would give about 20000l. per month profit; 100 tons monthly might give over 30,0000l. a year profit. "A" is in

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is "B," and if made into "A" and "B" in 12,000 shares, the mines ought to be made to pay 20 per cent. per annum on a market price of 10l. per share. At present neither of the shares is at half the price, and I give them the benefit of this hint, to such a plan as I have hinted at ought to be made, and the shareholders in each concern would be great and mutual.

ARGUS.

It is gratifying to find that there is some probability of this company being carried out, and the results we always expected—a rise in Parys shares—has taken place. It will be seen that the agent values the reserves of copper ore in the latter part of 2000 tons. The halvaus we referred to last week he estimated at 150,000 tons, and when they were taken over by the present company 200 tons per month were sold as high as 2l. per ton, which is a good profit. When the price dropped below 1l. the shares were stopped. Many have asked why an appeal to the public was not made for Morfa Du, but no such appeal was made when Parys was purchased; no prospectus of that company was issued, nor were the public invited to take shares. All of the capital required was subscribed privately a few days, and the much smaller sum required for Morfa-Du. Every shareholder in Parys who comes forward and subscribers for Morfa-Du shares likely to go to a high premium, and will double the value of their Parys shares. Those who apply within the next few months will have the option of taking his proportion of the unissued shares at any time within twelve months. If those who have applied do not do so now, it will be their own fault if Parys is carried out.

Sept. 29.—Market for tin shares. Carn Brea, 22 to 24; Dolcoath, 20 to 22; Tincroft, 19 to 21; Grenville, 14 to 16; Parys Mountain, 7s. 6d. to 8s.; East Pool, 30 to 32; West Tolgus, 7s. 6d. to 8s.; Great Lacey, 20 to 22; Roman Gravel, 8s. 6d. to 9s.; Rookhope Lead, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 1.

Oct. 1.—Tin shares again in demand, and scarce. Parys Mountain, 7s. 6d. to 8s.; East Pool, 30 to 32; West Tolgus, 7s. 6d. to 8s.; Great Lacey, 20 to 22; Roman Gravel, 8s. 6d. to 9s.; Rookhope Lead, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 1.

Oct. 2.—The rise of 3l. in the tin standard has caused a good demand for tin shares, and shares in most cases difficult to obtain. Tin prices for the day:—Carn Brea, 27 1/2 to 30; Devon Consols, 3 1/2 to 4; East Pool, 30 to 32; West Tolgus, 7s. 6d. to 8s.; Great Lacey, 20 to 22; Roman Gravel, 8s. 6d. to 9s.; Rookhope Lead, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 1.

Oct. 3.—Market for tin shares again active. Parys Mountain, 7s. 6d. to 8s.; East Pool, 30 to 32; West Tolgus, 7s. 6d. to 8s.; Great Lacey, 20 to 22; Roman Gravel, 8s. 6d. to 9s.; Rookhope Lead, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 1.

Oct. 4.—Good demand for Dolcoath, Carn Brea, Tincroft, and West Tolgus at advanced prices. Parys Mountain, Rookhope, Great Lacey, and East Pool, 30 to 32; Dolcoath, 20 to 22; Tincroft, 19 to 21; Grenville, 14 to 16; Parys Mountain, 7s. 6d. to 8s.; East Pool, 30 to 32; West Tolgus, 7s. 6d. to 8s.; Great Lacey, 20 to 22; Roman Gravel, 8s. 6d. to 9s.; Rookhope Lead, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 1.

Oct. 5.—Market for tin shares steady, and prices rather in favour of the tin. Parys Mountain, 7s. 6d. to 8s.; East Pool, 30 to 32; West Tolgus, 7s. 6d. to 8s.; Great Lacey, 20 to 22; Roman Gravel, 8s. 6d. to 9s.; Rookhope Lead, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 1.

Registration of New Companies.

The following joint-stock companies have been duly registered:—

LANDED PROPERTY INVESTMENT COMPANY (Limited).—Capital 1,000,000l., in 250,000 shares. This is, as its title indicates, a land investment company, the object being the acquisition of land for building purposes, &c. The subscribers are—W. C. Davis, 2, Suffolk Villas, Edmonton, 100; G. D. Mavet, 54, St. Mary's-terrace, W., 40; S. H. Jones, 27, Leadenhall-street; E. Woodington, 63, Queen Victoria-street; T. D. Day, 5, Ruskhill-road, Clapham, 2; W. T. Vivian, 29, New City Chambers, 1; R. S. Figgott, Albert Cottage, Peckham, 1.

DERBY LAND, BUILDING, AND INVESTMENT COMPANY (Limited).—Capital 50,000l., in 20,000 shares. The subscribers to the company are—George Dean, Parkfield House, Derby, 125; J. O. Cheekley, Leicester, 125; George Wilson, Leicester, 150; G. R. Fairs, Leicester, 125; W. Raven, Leicester, 125; S. Hall, Curzon-street, Derby, 125; E. Wood, Leicester, 62.

SMITH, STABLEY, AND COMPANY (Limited).—Capital 60,000l., in 100,000 shares. To acquire and carry on the Trafalgar Works, Bridge End, Leeds, and to continue the business of ironfounders, sewing machine manufacturers, &c. The subscribers are—Arthur Kelsey, Coventry, 1; Alfred Haynes, Westall Villa, Leamington, 10; George Ward, 11, Broadgate, Coventry, 1; Thomas Carpenter, Leamington, 10; Charles Smith, Leamington, 10; John Marshall Stanley, 18, Upper Well street, Coventry; George Raybird, Rookwood Park, Basingstoke, 10.

INVENTORS' AND GENERAL AGENCY (Limited).—Capital 10,000l., in 50,000 shares. To act as agents for the development of patents, &c. The subscribers are—W. White, 3, Thurlow-road, Hampstead, 40; F. Perigal, 1, Devonshire Villas, Kingston, 10; W. Lorey, Avenue House, Hammersmith, 40; J. A. Parker, Isleworth, 40; N. F. Dawe, Portman Chambers, Portman-square, 40; Thos. Hill, Merrywell, Glasgow, 40; W. Harvie, Glasgow, 20.

FENN AND COMPANY (Limited).—Capital 10,000l., in 100,000 shares. To carry on business as importers of, and dealers in, engineering and mechanical tools. The subscribers are—T. B. Ball, 1, Gresham Buildings, 200; J. Bartlett, Queen's-road, Peckham, 10; A. A. Timbrell, Leytonstone, 10; Arthur Bray, 3, Wansy-street, Walworth, 10; A. E. Ball, Stanhope Villa, Putney, 10; C. G. Musgrave, Paul's-road, Kennington, 10; J. O. C. Sargent, 14, Great St. Helen's, 100.

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GREAT GRIMSBY HIDE, SKIN, AND FAT MARKET COMPANY (Limited).—Capital 300,000l., in 50,000 shares.

PLAS-Y-NANT SLATE AND SLAB QUARRY COMPANY (Limited).—Capital 60,000l., in 50,000 shares. To acquire by purchase the right and interest of certain persons in a Tack Note and undertaking of lease for certain minerals under lands comprised in three farms known as Plas-y-Nant, Cae-gwynion, and Tynywedd, in the parish of Bettws, Carnarvon, and to mine for copper, lead, tin, sulphur, &c. The subscribers are—George Firth, Bradford, stuff merchant, 40; D. Cayley, Brompton, near York, land agent, 40; Whitehall Dodd, Llanerch Park, near St. Asaph, 40; Wm. Margerison, Ilkley, near Leeds, solicitor, 20; H. Dixon, Bradford, gentleman, 20; R. Ingleby, Pateley Bridge, spinner, 20; James Morley, 16, New Cannon-street, Manchester, commission agent, 20; D. Nichols, Leeds, builder, 20; W. H. Vickers, Stanningley, near Leeds, 20; W. W. Adsworth, Bradford, wool stapler, 20. The directors are—Wm. Dod, Digby Cayley, J. W. Margerison, J. Morley, R. Ingleby, D. Nichols, and W. H. Vickers. The qualification for any future director will be the holding of 20 shares.

LAND MORTGAGE OF ENGLAND ASSOCIATION (Limited).—Capital 100,000l., in 200,000 shares. To advance money on freehold and leasehold properties. The subscribers are—F. L. Malgarine, 7, Whitehall-place, 500; L. Routh, 9, Great Charles-street, Notting Hill, 5; W. P. Gaskell, Fulmer, near Slough, 5; E. E. Cronk, 23, Cockspur-street, 5; W. J. Worthington, 9, Buckingham-street, Adelphi, 5; W. A. Eurus, Watkiss, Watkiss, 5; Sir T. C. Knowles, Mayfield, Ryde, 5; R. Smith, Manor Park, Lee, 5.

UNITED FIRE RE-INSURANCE COMPANY (Limited).—Capital 50,000l., in 100,000 shares. To carry on the business of fire re-insurance, and to undertake every description of contract of re-insurance against losses by fire. The subscribers are—T. Brooke, Armitage Bridge, near Huddersfield, 1; J. W. Brooke, Fieldhall, Miffield, 1; E. Armitage, Huddersfield; Robert Whitworth, 20, Cross-street, Manchester; James Barlow, Albert Mills, Bolton; John Aitken, Sandfield, Baccup, 1; T. Wright, 35, Farningham-street, W. Monks, 1.

NORTHERN COUNTIES BREWERY COMPANY (Limited).—Capital 30,000l., in 100,000 shares. To carry on business as brewers, &c. The subscribers (who take one share each) are—Johnson George, Bensham, Durham; J. S. Smirk, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; J. Almyer, Newcastle; J. Blake, Newcastle; T. Ferguson, Gateshead; G. Brown, Newcastle; W. Charlton, Newcastle.

COLORADO UNITED SILVER MINING COMPANY.

THE TERRIBLE MINE.

Last Monday we had the pleasure of inspecting all the levels of this mine, commencing with and below the fourth or tunnel level. Since their consolidation these properties—the Terrible, Silver Ore, Brown, and other lodes, including the Union tunnel—are owned by the Colorado United Silver Mining Company, of which the Hons. W. A. Hamill and J. B. Chaffee represent two-thirds, and the late Terrible Lode Mining Company the remainder. These properties are now in successful operation under the superintendency of the Hon. W. A. Hamill and G. M. Henty, the latter of whom, in company with Mr. Slockett, one of the foremen of the mine, led us through the levels named above to the present workings of the mine, courteously giving us such information as was required beyond what we could actually see and hear ourselves.

The Terrible tunnel is now 380 ft. in length, and is laid with T-rail, double track, the entire distance. Near its junction with the lode it diverges, one branch continuing right ahead through the lode is used at its termination for a store-house for powder, &c., and the other curving to the right leads to the engine-room, and the main shaft. The engine is 25 horse power, and the room is large and firm. The engine shaft is 300 ft. deep at the present time, and inclines at an angle of 18° from the perpendicular; it is now in process of sinking, and will be continued about 40 ft. further. This will allow 80 ft. of ground between the seventh and eighth levels, and a shaft 20 ft. deep in the bottom of the shaft for the collection of water, which is pumped out by a Kewley's Special, which at this time is not required to be used more than 4 hours out of the 24. Thus far the dimensions of the shaft are 12 ft. by 14 ft., but it is probable that it will be considerably reduced in size from its present point to its completion.

Four levels are now being actively worked—the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh, and when the shaft is sunk 20 ft. deeper the eighth level will be developed. The winzes are generally about 120 ft. apart, and the levels about 60 ft., but the distance between the seventh and eighth levels will be 80 ft.; this, because the Union tunnel, which is now completed to a point 450 ft. from its mouth, and 140 ft. from the Terrible lode—will cut this lode on a horizontal plane 20 ft. below the seventh level, though 530 ft. west of the Terrible engine shaft, and directly under the Silver Ore shaft, thus constituting a main level, to which all subsequent levels on this lode will be made to conform. Commencing at and west of the engine-shaft, a distance of about 400 ft., and between the fifth levels and the surface, the ground has been principally staked out. This furnished, in past years, continuous employment for scores of miners, and formed an important item in the annual bullion product of Colorado.

The drifts are all run by contract of a uniform size of 7 ft. high and 5 ft. wide, and nearly the whole of them are fitted with T-rail, and the air is good throughout the mine. The drift west from the shaft on the fourth level is 530 ft. in length, and here four men are employed, two of whom are stopping above the drift about 200 ft. west of the engine-shaft. On the fifth level we found several men at work constructing a winze through ground which has already been staked out. This is a continuation of the Silver Ore shaft, so that it is now down to the sixth level. This point is 530 ft. west of the Terrible shaft. This level has been opened out 650 ft. west from the engine-shaft. The sixth level has been run 550 ft. in the same direction, and here three or four miners are stopping out ground which carries several small veins of ore, containing zinc, galena, and iron pyrites in considerable quantities, with some pyrites of copper: 300 ft. from the shaft a winze is being sunk, which at the time we saw it was 19 ft. deep. Two shifts of men are sinking this winze on a vein of ore about 6 in. in thickness, which turns out about 2 tons of ore per fathom. Near the east end of this level, a short distance from the shaft, several men are stopping on three or four streaks of good concentrating mineral. In the breast of the drift is some promising mineral, and work will shortly be commenced here to continue it further.

In the east drift on the seventh level—which is now opened a distance of 50 ft. from the shaft—several small streaks of mineral are in sight, and a contract has been let for drifting it 100 ft. further. The first stop commencing at and west of the shaft, is worked by John Taylor and Co., under contract, and employs six men. A vein of 3 or 4 in. is in sight here; west of this on the next stop J. Viol and Co. have a contract on a similar body of ore, and employ eight men. Between this point and the west end of this level—which is nearly 300 ft. from the engine-shaft—a vein of ore not less than 12 or 14 in. in thickness showing in the head of the drift. There is no stopping done below the sixth level, with the exception of

the contracts named above. In the breast of the west drift on the seventh level three shifts of men are at work on several veins of ore, consisting in a great measure of zinc blende, galena, &c., with spots and patches of brittle silver disseminated through the ore veins, and even through the quartz. This ore is improving with drifting, and Mr. Henty informs us that the brittle silver is principally found in combination with the light-colored zinc.

The Terrible Mine, in connection with the Silver Ore and Brown Mines, furnishes employment for about 150 men at the present time. A large frame building, 25 ft. by 35 ft., has recently been erected on the Terrible dump for the convenience of the miners, to be used as a changing and heating house, which we doubt not will be extensively patronised by the men during the winter season.

—Colorado Miner, Sept. 8.

Colonel Fair's Sulphurets Dryer is nearly finished and will be ready for use in a short time. It consists of a cast-iron cylinder 30 ft. in length, and having an inside diameter of 2 ft. This cylinder or shell is composed of ten sections, cast with flanges, in order that they may be bolted together, as are the sections of a pump column. Through the whole length of the shell runs a shaft, on which is the thread of a screw, which thread moves the sulphurets slowly through the cylinder. The shell, or cylinder, is to be set in a proper furnace, in which such a degree of heat will be maintained as will dry the sulphurets without evaporating the quicksilver they may contain, or volatilising the silver. The shaft running through the shell is a strong wrought iron pipe 10 in. in diameter, and upon this is fastened the screw, which is cast in segments and riveted to the shaft. The thread is 3 in. in depth, making the whole diameter of the shaft and screw 16 in. The fire-grate of the furnace will be at the end of the cylinder at which the sulphurets are discharged, and the chimney at the end where they will be fed in; therefore, they will be heated up by degrees, and will pass through the greatest heat just before being discharged. The screw will be operated by means of a small steam-engine. The excavation for the foundation of the furnace is completed, and the masons are ready to begin their part of the work. The greater part of the apparatus is completed and already on the ground. In case this shall be found to do good work, a similar machine will probably be put up at the Omega mill, for use in drying slimes. —Gold Hill News.

Capt. Plummer, Superintendent of the English Company's mine at Mineral Hill, arrived in Eureka on Tuesday evening's train, and will prolong his visit for a number of days. During his stay he will visit the Ruby Hill mines and other points of interest in the district. The captain is a most intelligent gentleman, and has had a very large experience in mines and mining. The London company are very fortunate in securing his services, and his administration of affairs at Mineral Hill will redound both to his and their credit.

RICHMOND.—Operations at the Richmond reduction works are being carried on at a lively rate. The two furnaces are steady at work reducing ore, and the quantity of bullion turned out exceeds the anticipations of the managers. The refinery will start up to-day, and shipments of lead and silver follow shortly. Three ore trains of ten cars each, an aggregate of 180 tons, arrive from the mine daily, and the quantity will be increased as it is needed. There is a report that two more furnaces will be started up in a few days, one on Jackson ore, and the other on the rock from the company's mine. Considerable outside custom ore is being smelted. The Bald Eagle sends in a daily shipment of 10 tons, and other lots from Prospect Mountain and vicinity are being received. The southern portion of Eureka is fast regaining its former busy aspect, and business men and property owners in that locality are much encouraged at the outlook. —Eureka Sentinel, Sept. 14.

CORNISH PUMPING ENGINES.—The number of pumping-engines reported for July is 15. They have consumed 1418 tons of coal, and lifted 10,000,000 tons of water 10 fms. high. The average duty of the whole is, therefore, 49,000,000 lbs., lifted 1 ft. high, by the consumption of 112 lbs. of coal. The following engines have exceeded the average duty:—

Melleanor—75 in.	Millions	62.0
Melleanor—Gundry's 80 in.		58.4
West Wheel Francis—58 in.		55.9
West Wheel Seton—Harvey's 85 in.		58.5
West Wheel Seton—Rule's 70 in.		62.7

LEAD ORES.

Date.	Mines.	Tons.	Price per ton.	Purchasers.
Sept. 24—Frongoch.	50	£11 12 6	Weston, Son, and Co.	
— ditto	50	11 10 0	Panther Lead Company.	
—Goginan	40	15 17 6	Weston, Son, and Co.	
26—Powell Consolidated	20	11 11 0	Walker, Parker, and Co.	
27—Climeria	50	12 7 0	Nevill, Druce, and Co.	
— ditto	55	12 1 0	ditto	
— ditto	55	11 18 6	Walker, Parker, and Co.	
— ditto	22	11 18 6	ditto	
— ditto	38	12 2 6	ditto	
— ditto	7	1 17 6	ditto	
29—Grogwinion	10	12 3 6	George Burr.	
Oct. 2—Great Lacey	10	20 0 0	Weston, Son, and Co.	
4—West Tankerville	35	12 5 0	Runcorn Smelting Co.	
5—Rookhope	50	11 12 6	J. Walton and Co.	

COPPER ORES.

Sampled Sept. 19, and sold at Tabb's Hotel, Rehruth, Oct. 4.

Mines.	Tons.	Price.	Mines.	Tons.	Price.
West Tolgus	74	£3 6 0	East Pool	49	£3 0 0
Mellanear	64	7 17 6	ditto	24	1 9 0
ditto	60	7 9 6	Wheel Basset	32	5 3 6
ditto	57	4 10 0	ditto	28	6 14 6
ditto	53	7 17 0	Gt. Crinnis & Carlyn	52	5 13 6
ditto	32	6 4 6	Carn Brea	33	1 6 6
Mellanear	76	3 2 0	ditto	18	2 15 6
ditto	70	3 15 0	Wheel Eliza	50	4 14 0
ditto	66	3 1 0	West Polidice	27	3 2 6
ditto	62	3 1 0	Panstruthal	20	5 16 6
ditto	39	3 12 0	West Godolphin	18	7 7 6
South Crofty	43	2 6 6	Wheel Unity Wood	9	3 12 6
ditto	34	1 19 6	West Wheel Eliza	7	7 5 6
West Seton	51	3 11 6	East Basset	6	1 7 6
ditto	41	2 13 6	Polidice	3	2 10 0
ditto	32	3 1 6	New Hendra	3	3 18 6

TOTAL PRODUCE.

West Tolgus	34	£2068 9 0	West Polidice	27	£ 84 7 6
Mellanear	303	998 8 0	Panstruthal	20	116 10 0
South Crofty	135	276 16 0	West Godolphin	18	132 15 0
West Seton	124	390 8 0	Wh. Unity Wood	9	39 17 0
East Pool	73	181 16 0	Wheel Grenville	9	42 15 0
Great Crinnis, &c.	52	333 18 0	West Wheel Eliza	7	50 18 6
Carn Brea	51	93 13 6	East Basset	6	8 5 0
Wheel Eliza	50	235 5 0	New Hendra	3	7 10 0

Average standard £ 8 5 0 | Average produce 8
 Average price per ton 1292 | Quantity of fine copper 103 tons 9 cwt.
 Quantity of ore £5369 9 6
 LAST SALE.—Average standard £ 8 5 0 | Average produce 6 1/2
 Standard of corresponding sale last month, £ 8 18 0—Produce, 7 1/2

COMPANIES BY WHOM THE ORES WERE PURCHASED.

Names.	Tons.	Amount.
Vivian and Sons	159	£ 268 15 0
Grenfell and Sons	341	1247 13 0
Nevill, Druce, and Co.	265	1011 18 0
Williams, Foster, and Co.	235	1334 12 0
Mason and Elkington	150	509 15 6
Charles J. Lambert	135	276 16 0
Total	1202	£5369 9 6

NO SALE on Thursday next, October 11.

Copper ore for sale at the Royal Hotel, Truro, on Thursday week—Mines and produce: Devon Great Consols 677—South Caradon 470—Marke Valley 360—Wheel Crebor 285—Glasgow Caradon 235—Gawton 190—Ilngton Down 156—Phoenix 120—West Maria and Fortescue 116—Bedford United 78—Prince of Wales 28—Wheel Edward 9. Total, 2924 tons.

GAWTON COPPER MINE.

A general meeting of shareholders, held at the offices of the Messrs. Austinfrin, on Wednesday.

Mr. HUNTER in the chair.

The accounts for the four months, charging coal to end of July, showed a debit balance of 400l. 12s. 9d. There had been sold 421 tons of copper ore, and about the same quantity of mundie.

Particulars of the meeting and the minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed,

the financial statement and a report from the agent was read.

Mr. HUNTER said it would be seen from the accounts that the mine had increased in the past four months by about 44 tons, as against the previous four months, but he regretted to say the amount realised had only been about the same, owing to a decline in the copper standard. This, however, they had no control over. He was, however, pleased to hear from Captain Rowe,

who was present, that the mine was looking well, and had capital and with a fair, remunerative price for our produce, we could well.

It would be seen from the accounts there was a balance of 400l. 12s. 9d., and to provide for this the committee recommended a call of 2s. per share. It was then resolved

the accounts, with the agent's report, be received and passed; a dividend of 2s. per share be made; that a vote of thanks be given to Captain Rowe, the local purser, and Captain George Rowe, the

agent, for the interest they had displayed in the development of the mine; that the committee of management be re-elected; and a vote of thanks to the Chairman close the meeting.

[For remainder of Meeting see to-day's Supplement.]

CAPITAL, AND ITS EMPLOYMENT.

Capital which has been given to mining enterprise by the public in the tin standard, as well as by the favourable nature of the reports of various lead companies, has had the effect of producing considerable activity in the mining market, and transactions have been much more numerous than for some time past. Should the tin standard be maintained—or better still, raised—Cornish

will receive an amount of business to which for some years it has been a stranger, and higher prices must prevail. It must not be

thought that during this long period of depression the Cornish people have been idle; on the contrary, they have been employing every means to reduce

expenses by judicious economy to endeavour to secure a profit out of the depression. In illustration of this we may state that in 1874 the standard was in

the tin at 24s. 6d., and in 1875 it was 21s. 6d. Amongst other improvements the introduction of mechanical power in lieu of hand labour, may be noted that whilst a great success has attended the introduction of

the steam drill at Dolcoath, a still greater one has been met with at Carn Brea where a similar course. Thus much for economy in working.

It may possibly be excused for enumerating a few of the changes. Carn Brea, from 21 to 20; East Pool, from 11 to 10; South Francis, from 12s. 6d. to 11s. 6d.; West Basset, from 14s. to 13s. 6d.; West Basset, from 14s. to 13s. 6d.

These are a few instances of what has been made in the course of a week, and it is obvious that another substantial advance is a corresponding advance in all Cornish shares.

The fact is, that the tin standard is low, and the tin market is the most depressed it has been for many years. It may possibly be in the recollection of some of our readers that by

the tin company's possession, and we have ever since advocated the tin company as a desirable investment. That these anticipations of ours

have been justified, a glance at the report will be sufficiently convincing, as a profit of 90 per cent. has been made during the past year, and dividends to the amount of 100 per cent. have been paid to the shareholders. This dividend, together with the handsome

dividend, placed to reserve fund, must be eminently gratifying to the shareholders who have at so early a stage acquired such a substantial return.

There is no hesitation in stating that this valuable property will, at the least, be a profitable investment, and appearances point to still larger dividends.

Improvements are in contemplation, and will doubtless be carried out, and the introduction of boring machinery, which alone will

improve the present and the laying-out of additional dressing-floors; the improvement of a branch of the Caedonian Railway direct to the tin mines. We can only add that the present price of the shares is actually

at a low level, and that the tin standard is low, and the tin market is the most depressed it has been for many years. It may possibly be in the recollection of some of our readers that by

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Mining Correspondence.

BRITISH MINES.

ABERDAUNANT.—S. Toy, Oct. 4: The new shaft is now down 12 fms. 2 ft. below the deep adit level. I have been dialling the north lode this week, and am now making a plan and section of it.

BODIDRIS.—H. Hotchkiss, Oct. 3: Everything is going on regularly. In the 60 end east good progress is being made in a very promising lode. The cross-cut south at this level progresses rather slowly, but the ground is very congenial for the production of lead ore; when the lode is met with, which, according to present indications, cannot be far ahead of present forecast. Other points are much the same as for some time past, calling for no special remark. Will send full report next week.

CAMBRIAN MINES.—Esgair-Febrith: T. Glanville, Oct. 4: In the eastern shaft, I am pleased to say, the copper part of the lode is 3 ft. wide the whole length of the shaft, and will produce 5 tons of very rich ore per fathom. By Saturday next the shaft will have been sunk to the required depth for driving levels east and west on the lode.

ESGAIR-HIR.—T. Glanville: The lode west of new shaft is worth 207. per fathom for lead ore.

CLEMENTINA.—John Roberts, William Bennetts, Oct. 3: The engine-shaft is down 1 ft. 6 in. below the 31, making sufficient room for the time being for a fork, and we have commenced driving south this afternoon, and shall set the engine in a day or two. The lode is fairly 3 ft. wide, and contains spots of lead, 2 ft. of which is a beautiful lead-producing character, and must soon become productive of lead, especially as we have only 3 1/2 fms. to drive to intersect the east and north lode, which we expect to do in a month. We have from 7 to 8 tons of lead ready for sampling, and we have a large pile of stuff more to pick over.

COMBARTIN.—John Comer, Oct. 4: There is no change of any importance to report on this week. Saturday being our pay and setting day we will send a full report.

COLETT GRANGE.—James G. Green, Oct. 3: Setting Report: Engine-shaft: There being insufficient water for the pumping wheel the water in the shaft is gradually rising; we are in consequence prevented from completing the skipway, otherwise we should have all in working order in the course of a fortnight. The stopes in the 30 maintains its productiveness; the ground is hard; set at 80s. per fathom. The 16 west is full of stuff, and suspended for the present. The 18 east is set to two men, at 80s. per fathom, the lode improving in character. Stopping has been done in advance of this end at the 30; I, therefore, hope to cut something good shortly. The adit east is out of the lode; it is set to four men, to cut in the south side, at 90s. per fathom; when the lode is cut through driving east will be commenced in search of the bunch of lead in the end of the 16. To sink a winze below the shallow adit, to four men, at 160s. per fathom; this will afford passage for orestuff in the back of the shallow adit; there are only 2 fms. to sink to hole into the back of stope above the deep adit. We have six men in shaft, four men clearing shallow adit, and four men making trial stopes in the old mine. We are making arrangements to sink the old Broglin shaft to the level of the 16, and then to drive west to meet the same, but all work in this part of the mine has to be stopped to take care of the shortness of supply of surface water; for the same reason we are unable to make much progress with our buildings, as we cannot wind the stones from the quarry. I am glad to say that the big job of making culvert and excavations for the crushing-wheel is completed. Excellent progress is being made at the new reservoir.

DE BROKE.—J. Phillips, Oct. 3: The lode in the 45, west of Wilson's shaft, is more than 6 ft. wide, a part of which carries a mixture of quartz, lead, and copper ore, saving work for dressing. The 45 east is producing at times good stones of lead and copper ore. The rise in the back of the 35 is holed to the winze, and some of the men placed to stop a piece of lead ore ground near the rise; particulars on this point will follow in next report. The stope at the 25 is worth about 15s. per fathom. The two stopes at the 35 are yielding from 20 to 25 cwt. of lead ore per fathom. We sold 20 tons of lead ore on Friday last, but the supply of water has so much fallen off that we cannot crush nor draw with any speed, the like of drawing gear requiring alteration. I am having it shifted and re-set, from the drawing-machine to and including the shaft-tackle; this work, which has become necessary for drawing at increased depth, will occupy nearly a week. The underground bargains will be continued regularly.

DENBIGHSHIRE CONSOLIDATED.—John Pryor, Oct. 4: The 112 east is in precisely the same shaly formation that it has been in for some time, and I do not expect any improvement now until the Coad-y-Fedw lode is reached. In the north cross-cut I am pleased to say that we have intersected one of the most promising lodes that I have ever seen. We have had no time yet to make a trial upon it, but I have every reason to think it will turn out very valuable. The only other change worthy of note is at Parry's sump, which improves for lead, and is now close upon the depth at which we shall drive out to reach the run of ore proved here some long time since.

DERSBY MOUNTAIN.—J. Roberts, W. Bennetts, Oct. 3: No. 3 Adit: We have set this to four men, at 15s. per fathom. There is no change in the lode since our last report. From the bottom of the end to about half-way up to the roof it is worth about 7 cwt. of lead per fathom, and about the same quantity of blende. We hope to make better progress than we have done, as we have a more steady pair of men in it. No. 4 Adit: We have completed the tramway here, and shall clear out the leadstuff directly, when we shall resume driving the end. The excavation for the wheel pit will be completed to-morrow, and we propose inviting tenders directly for the mason work.

DERWENT.—J. Morphet, Oct. 2: I beg to hand you a few lines as a weekly report. Jeffrey's Shaft—Middle Vein: The 95 east is without change; in this level a few fathoms back from the end, where we are taking down the sides, the lode is gradually lessening in width. No. 1 stope, in the back, is 10 ft. wide, and worth 50 cwt. of ore per cubic fathom, or 2 1/2 tons for full width. No. 2 stope is also 10 ft. wide, and worth 2 tons per cubic fathom, or 3 tons 6 cwt. for whole width. No. 3 stope is 7 ft. wide, and improved to 24 cwt. of ore per cubic fathom. No. 4 stope is 4 ft. wide, and yields 14 cwt. of ore per fathom. No. 5 stope, started this week, is 3 ft. wide, and worth 10 cwt. of ore per fathom. In the cross cut at the 95 there is no change. The 93 west is as last reported. The respective value of the workings over this level is 14, 10, 14, and 20 cwt. of ore per fathom; the average width of vein 7 ft.—Sun Vein: This vein in the level west of sump is 2 1/2 ft. wide, and produces 4 cwt. of ore per fathom; east from sump the vein is 3 ft. wide, and worth 2 tons of ore per fathom.—North Vein: The 80, east of Red's, continues as last reported—Taylor's Shaft—Middle Vein: The cross-cut at the 100 is now down to the level of the 95, and is 12 ft. wide, and produces 14 cwt. of ore per fathom. The 93 east is as last reported. The 74 west is 2 ft. wide, and produces 15 cwt. of ore per fathom. The various branches at surface are progressing satisfactorily.

DEVON GREAT CONSOLS.—There is nothing new in the report from the mines this week. The sampling of ores for sale on the 18th inst. is computed at 877 tons.

EAST VAN.—W. Williams, Oct. 4: The 25 west looks a little more promising than it has for some time. In the stope there is no change to report. We shall effect a communication early next week between the 25 and the 55, and the same level driven west from the winze sunk below A cross-cut; this done we shall resume the sinking of the shaft for the 55.

EAST WHEAL LOVELL.—R. Quentrell, Oct. 3: Fatwork: In the winze below the 100 west the lode continues to be worth 207. per fathom. There is no alteration in the 100 west or 80 east since my last report. The north lode in the shaft below the 110 maintains its size and favourable character, and we are making fair progress in sinking. Tregonore's: In the adit driving west the ground is more favourable, and the lode contains a little more.

GLASGOW CARADON CONSOLS.—W. Taylor, W. J. Taylor, Oct. 1: Elliott's shaft is nearly down the required depth for the 90; we expect to commence driving and cutting flat after next week. In the meantime we shall be getting down the skip road for drawing from this deeper level. The winze in the bottom of the 78, east of shaft, is worth 12s. per fathom; ground favourable, and is being pushed on as fast as possible. The 78 east is holed to the winze from the midway; we are now cutting down the bottom of it; when this is done we shall open fully into the lode, and give its value. The level west, on south branch, is worth 6s. 1s. per fathom. The ground is good, and the ground is changed, some lead, and letting out water; we hope to find more lode here soon. No change in the ends on the counter lode. The stopes and pitches throughout the mine continue about the same value as last reported. The quantity of ore for our next sale is computed 235 tons, which will be sold for the 18th inst.

GLASLLEN.—John Davies, Oct. 3: In company with Capt. Jenkins, of Cafarth, I went to see the new lode yesterday. It is to be seen in the brook east of the Mcd; it is a strong lode, but as yet we have only found it in this place, therefore I cannot say how it is running. I was informed that it is also to be seen in the west side of the mountain, and in the level of the 45, where it has been in all the levels of the copper mine; there is very good copper there. I cut some very good pieces east of the winze. I have no doubt this will turn to lead in depth, as it is a strong lode, very like that now looking so well at the adjoining mine.

GORSIEDD AND MERLLYN CONSOLS.—W. Edwards, Oct. 4: I think I may say that the mine is looking better than it has done. In the bottom levels east and west the ground, although hard, is showing splendid lead ore. We have now got a rise through to the upper level east, and the men have resumed the driving of the lode in this direction. There is a splendid crop of lead ore here, and the ventilation is perfect. All other points as usual. In the north cross-cut the lode west the ground keeps favourable, and more lead is coming in the clay. I fully expect to cut the vein during the next week. We are getting on fast with another 50 tons for Thursday's sale.

GREAT DYLIFFE.—Evan Evans, Oct. 3: DyliFFE Lode: At the 132, east of DyliFFE lode, we are now stripping the lode. The lode is strong here, and what we have stripped of it is worth about 18s. per fathom; at this place we shall commence a new stope next week by six men. The 132 west is not yet in the ore that we expect to meet. The stope over the 132 east and west, are worth about 14s. per fathom; the one over the west is nearly through to the level above. At the 95 east we opened and timbered this level to the end, and are now driving it forward to meet a run of ore that a stope is coming upon from the 105, and yesterday we had a nice string of ore in this forecast. In the cross-cut, at the 60, we have seen the lode, but are not yet through it. We shall value it next week. In the drivings, in bottom of winze, under the 40 ft. level, the lode is still looking good, but as we are not stripping it through, we cannot value it at present. From the drivings on the new lode we had very nice stones of ore yesterday, the forecast at present looking very well.—Schweid Lode: The stopes over the 95 ft. level, worth about 12s. per fathom. We have three stopes over the 95 ft. level, worth about 14s. per fathom each. The cross-cut from the Llechwedd has intercepted the Esgairaled lode, but unfortunately the soft, shaly, and unproductive ground met in the upper levels near the junction of the two lodes named kills further to the east than we could have expected. The rich portion of the lode is at the east of our driving, according to the evidence of the upper levels. The cross-cut gives the shortest practical communication to us between the two lodes; it is more satisfactory to drive on a lode than to drive a cross-cut out of the lode. We cannot, however, to justice to the great Esgairaled lode at this depth unless we proceed, as we propose to do, to drive east upon it. We will give particulars next week. We have sampled 60 tons of ore to day for sale on the 10th inst.

GREAT RETALLACK.—John Harris, Sept. 29: The lode in the 53 east is worth 1 ton per fathom, and the lode in the 53 driving west, east of the whim-shaft, is worth 2 tons per fathom; this is for 6 ft. of the lode in length and depth, the lode having a very flat unproductive patch below the 45, where it is worth 2 tons of blende per fathom, the patch below the 45, west of whim-shaft, is worth 1 ton per fathom.

GREAT RETALLACK.—John Harris, Oct. 3: The two ends east of whim shaft

at the 53 are communicated, and I have set the men (eight) to stop the back of the level at 40s. per fathom, and 15s. and 10s. 6d. per ton for Nos. 1 and 2 blende, the men to pay all cost of dressing, &c., as usual; the part of the lode carried is about 2 1/2 ft. wide, and is worth about 3 tons of blende per fathom. All other parts of the mine much the same as when last reported.

HINGTON DOWN CONSOLS.—Thomas Richards, Oct. 4: Bailey's Shaft: In the 122 east and west the part of the lode carried (5 ft. wide) contains quartz, capel, munda, peash, and good stones of ore, and is very promising. In the 160, west of Nicholls' winze the lode is worth 4 tons of ore, or 10s. per fathom. In the stope in the back of the 160, east of Nicholls' winze, the lode is worth 6 tons, or 18s. per fathom. The stopes in the back of the 150, and the back of the 140, east and west of Chynoweth's rise, are let on tribute. The sampling on Friday last was 165 tons.

HOLMBUSH.—H. Bennett, Oct. 4: I am very much pleased with the appearance of the 80 end, west of the engine-shaft. The lode is about 18 in. wide, containing good stones of arsenical munda and copper ore, and I have not the least doubt but that the lode will improve as we drive west, and away from the disordered ground. We are laying down a tram-road in this level to the present end, and one also in the 60 ft. level on the lead lode. We shall thereby effect a considerable saving in the price paid for removing the stuff. We have commenced to drive west from the lobby on Dowling's lode, which is at present 2 ft. wide, composed of gossan, with spots of sulphur-munda and copper ore. There is no alteration in any other part of the mine that requires notice. The machinery is in good working order.

KINGTON CONSOLS.—W. Hancock, J. Chynoweth, Oct. 4: The lode in the 30, west of engine-shaft, is producing 15 cwt. of blende and 4 cwt. of lead per fathom—a very kindly lode. In the level from No. 4 winze, driving towards it, the lode is worth about 1 ton of blende and 5 cwt. of lead per fathom. The stope east of No. 4 winze is worth for lead and blende 25s. per fathom. Other places are much the same as last reported on. We sampled to day (computed) 75 tons of blende and 13 tons of lead—No. 1 blende, 30 tons; No. 2 blende, 30 tons; No. 3 blende, 15 tons. No. 1 lead, 8 tons; No. 2 lead, 5 tons; to be sold Oct. 11.

KIT HILL TUNNEL.—H. Bennett, Oct. 4: We are pushing on the south end of the tunnel with all possible speed. The ground being favourable, satisfactory progress is being made.

LADYWELL.—A. Waters, Oct. 4: No material change to notice here since last report. The new shaft is cased and divided, and machine kibble sent to bottom to-day. Hope to hole the winze from adit to the 16 ft. level this week, when the adit end will be well ventilated.

LLAN GAN (Lead).—Capt. Wasley, Oct. 3: Engine-shaft: In the south cross-cut we have cut a strong lode, it is a very regular one underlying north, with a good footwall, and contains good work for lead; the further we get away from the cross-course the better the lode will be; the men daily expect to intersect the lode in the north cross-cut.—Old Engine-shaft: The lode in the footwall shaft has a most satisfactory appearance, and promises to be a good one. The stopes in the back of the level west of shaft continue to turn out a quantity of ore; next week we shall be able to turn out double the quantity of work.—Wright's Shaft: The lode in the stopes east of shaft never looked better, and we are sending large quantities of work to the dressing-floors of better quality than heretofore.—Quarry Lode: The men are at work here on tribute. We are pushing on the lead dressing. **LOVELL.**—J. Frisk, Oct. 4: The lode in the Kowman belt, sinking below the 26, is improved, and will now produce over 2 tons of lead per fathom for length of shaft, and getting richer as depth is attained. The lode in the 25 end west is 7 ft. wide, and worth 12s. per fathom. The lode in the stope in the bottom of the 30 is 15 ft. wide, worth 20s. per fathom. The lode in No. 1 stope, in the back of the 30, is worth 10s. per fathom. The lode in No. 2 stope, in the bottom of the 35, is worth 10s. per fathom. In the eastern sett the water in the new shaft is falling off daily, and we shall commence to make a further trial to the lode in a day or two.

MEDLYN MOOR.—J. Frisk, C. Rowe, Oct. 4: The ground in the engine-shaft, sinking below the 27, is much easier for sinking, and we think the lode will be met with shortly, which we expect will greatly assist our returns. The lode in the 27 west is worth 6s. per fathom. The lode in the 27 east, on No. 2 north lode, is worth 7s. 10d. per fathom. The tributaries are all working, and breaking good quality tinstone.

MELLANEAR.—J. Gilbert, Oct. 3: The lode in the 50, west of the skip-shaft, is 4 ft. wide, and worth 3 1/2 tons of copper ore per fathom. The stope in the back of the 47, west of the skip-shaft, and west of No. 1, is still worth 4 1/2 tons of ore per fathom. The lode in the 40, driving west from the top of No. 3 rise, is 2 1/2 ft. wide, and worth 1 1/2 tons of ore per fathom. The lode in the stope in the bottom of the 97, west of the cross-course, is 6 ft. wide, and worth 7 tons of ore per fathom. The lode in the winze in the bottom of the 50, west of the skip-shaft, is 4 feet wide, and worth 3 tons of ore per fathom; this winze will be holed to the 90 some time this week. The lode in the 90, west of shaft, is worth 3 1/2 tons of ore per fathom, with more lode standing in the south side.—Gundry's Shaft: The 90 cross-cut has been driven south of shaft 5 1/2 fathoms, and we calculate the ore to be 4 fathoms more to drive to intersect the lode in the level; there will then be about 20 fathoms to drive east on the course of the lode to meet with the 90 ft. level, west of the skip-shaft. The lode in the 80, west of the shaft, is again more hard and spare for driving, and is producing about 1 ton of ore per fathom. The lode in the stope in the back of this level, east of shaft, is worth 6 tons of ore per fathom. The lode in the 70, west of shaft, is 4 ft. wide, and worth 3 tons of ore per fathom. The lode in the rise in the back of this level is without change, and still worth 3 tons of ore per fathom. 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of lead, but not yet sufficient to value. I hope that we shall be able to have the water out of the mine in a few days. The water is now being pumped out of the mine at the rate of 100 tons per day. The water is now being pumped out of the mine at the rate of 100 tons per day. The water is now being pumped out of the mine at the rate of 100 tons per day.

WHEELER'S BRIDGE.—D. Williams, Oct. 1: The 56, upon Craven cross-section, is now being worked. The water is now being pumped out of the mine at the rate of 100 tons per day. The water is now being pumped out of the mine at the rate of 100 tons per day. The water is now being pumped out of the mine at the rate of 100 tons per day.

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patches of lead in it, and some blende, which shows that as we push on our 22 cut under this we are about to have a good piece of valuable ore. The water is now being pumped out of the mine at the rate of 100 tons per day. The water is now being pumped out of the mine at the rate of 100 tons per day. The water is now being pumped out of the mine at the rate of 100 tons per day.

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Chemical, 42s. 6d.; North of England Wagon, 83s. 6d.; Palmer, B, 14s. 6d.; and Phospho Guano, 10s. 6d. The following are the rates per cent. yielded on investments at present prices, calculated on the average yearly dividend, for a few of the principal companies:—
—Coal: Arncliffe nearly 6%, Benhar nearly 6%, and Cairn Vale nearly 11%.
—Oil: Dalmeny nearly 5%, Uphall 8, and Young's Paraffin nearly 10. These shares have been in more request since the issue of the directors' report and accounts, with agent's report, which show that the concern must continue to pay large dividends, but the public cannot have any idea of this for a considerable time, nor of the rise in price the shares will have.

Subjoined are this week's quotations, &c., of mining and metal shares quoted on the Scotch Stock Exchanges:—

Capital.		Dividends.		Description of shares.		Last price.	
Per share.	up.	Previous.	Last.				
£10	10	8	8	COAL, IRON, STEEL.			
10	10	8	8	Arncliffe Coal (Limited)		78s. 6d.	
10	10	8	8	Benhar Coal (Limited)		78s. 6d.	
10	10	8	8	Ditto		78s. 6d.	
10	10	8	8	Bolton, Vaughan, and Co. (Lim.)		54s.	
10	10	8	8	Cairn Vale Coal (Limited)		8s.	
10	10	8	8	Chillingham Iron (Limited)		70s.	
10	10	8	8	Ebbw Vale Steel, Iron, and Coal (Lim.)		9s.	
10	10	8	8	Fife Coal (Limited)		60s.	
10	10	8	8	Glasgow Port (Limited)		65s.	
10	10	8	8	Ditto		65s.	
10	10	8	8	Lochore and Capleira (Limited)		5s.	
10	10	8	8	Marbella Iron Ore (Limited)		11s.	
10	10	8	8	Monkland Iron and Coal (Limited)		11s.	
10	10	8	8	Ditto		11s.	
10	10	8	8	Nant-y-Glo & Blaenau Ironworks pref. (L)		21s.	
10	10	8	8	Omao and Cleland Iron & Coal (L & R.)		30s.	
10	10	8	8	Scottish Australian Mining (Limited)		40s.	
10	10	8	8	Ditto		40s.	
10	10	8	8	Shotts Iron		91s.	
10	10	8	8	COPPER, SULPHUR, TIN.			
10	10	8	8	Canadian Copper and Sulphur (Lim.)		5s.	
10	10	8	8	Cape Copper (Limited)		35s.	
10	10	8	8	Glasgow Caradoc Copper Mining (Lim.)		23s.	
10	10	8	8	Ditto		10s.	
10	10	8	8	Huntington Copper and Sulphur (Lim.)		28s.	
10	10	8	8	Kaunda Mining (Limited)		25s.	
10	10	8	8	Panulilio Copper (Limited)		25s.	
10	10	8	8	Rio Tinto (Limited)		72s. 6d.	
10	10	8	8	Ditto, 7 per cent. Mortgage Bonds		14s.	
10	10	8	8	Do 5 p.c. Mor. Deb. (Sp. Con. Bds.)		53s.	
10	10	8	8	Russia Copper (Limited)		40s.	
10	10	8	8	Tharsha Copper and Sulphur (Limited)		22s.	
10	10	8	8	Ditto		15s.	
10	10	8	8	York and Peninsula Mining (Lim.)		6s.	
10	10	8	8	Ditto, 15 per cent. Guaranteed Pref.		17s. 6d.	
10	10	8	8	GOLD, SILVER.			
10	10	8	8	Australian Mines Investment (Limited)		8s. 9d.	
10	10	8	8	Richmond Mining (Limited)		5s.	
10	10	8	8	OIL.			
10	10	8	8	Dalmeny Oil (Limited)		8s.	
10	10	8	8	Oakbank Oil (Limited)		40s. 6d.	
10	10	8	8	Ditto		11s.	
10	10	8	8	Uphall Mineral Oil		9s.	
10	10	8	8	Ditto		10s.	
10	10	8	8	West Calder Oil (Limited)		75s.	
10	10	8	8	Young's Paraffin Light & Mineral Oil (L)		15s.	
10	10	8	8	MISCELLANEOUS.			
10	10	8	8	London and Glasgow Engineering & Iron		25s.	
10	10	8	8	Shipbuilding (Limited)		25s.	
10	10	8	8	Peruvian Nitrate (Limited)		10/10s.	
10	10	8	8	Phospho Guano (Limited)		10/10s.	
10	10	8	8	Scottish Wagon (Limited)		11s.	
10	10	8	8	Ditto		87s. 6d.	

Last day for this account, Oct. 9; settling day, Oct. 12.

NOTE.—The above lists of mines and auxiliary associations are as far as can be ascertained, Scotch companies only being inserted, or those in which Scotch investors are interested. In the event of any being omitted, and parties desiring a quotation for them and such information as can be ascertained from time to time to be inserted in these lists, they will be good enough to communicate the name of the company, with any other particulars as far as possible.

J. GRANT MACLEAN, Stock and Share Broker.
Post Office Buildings, Stirling, Oct. 4.

THE WEEK.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 29.—In the mining market the bidding for Parys Mountain was the prominent feature. The shares advanced to 9s., and very few were offered at that. Port Phillip was dealt in at 9-10ths, and Leadhills at 5s. Tin shares were slightly better, and there was a moderate enquiry for Wheal Grenville and Penrith. The dividend of 12s. paid by Van must be considered very satisfactory, the Bury Port loss having had to be provided for. Alamillos, Fortuna, and Linares pay the same dividends as were declared in March last, being 1s., 6s., 8d., and 9s. respectively. The Linares dividend is at the rate of 30 per cent. In railways, Metropolitan advanced to 11s. and Brighton, A, was a firm market at 11s. In anticipation of a good traffic return on Monday, Erie shares, \$11½ to \$11¾. Central New Jersey, \$15 to \$17.

MONDAY.—In anticipation of a good traffic return Brighton, A, was put up to 11½, but when an increase of only 11s. was shown the stock declined to 11s. North British was a strong market, and rose to 8½ ex div. Grand Trunk securities were firm, and quoted thus—shares, 9 to 9½; First Preference, 4½ to 4¾; second, 3½ to 3¾; third, 18 to 18½. At a Parys Mountain meeting to-day it was stated that of the 7000 Morfa Du shares that require to be taken to justify a call on over 6000 had been applied for. More were taken in the course of the meeting, and apparently the difficulty is at an end. Parys Mountain shares left off 9s. to 11s., and a good deal in demand. Rookhope, 18s. to 20s.; South R. man Gravel, 3½ to 5½; North Laxey, 12s. to 14s. There was a relapse in Leadhills, which were offered at 5½. Port Phillip, 10s. to 12s. 6d.; Exchequer, 4s. to 6s.; London and California, 10s. to 11s.; Sierra Buttes, 1½ to 2; Don Pedro, 9s. to 11s.; Marke Valley, 5½ to 7s.

TUESDAY.—The continued firmness of the tin market caused a rather important rise in Dolcoath and Carn Brea; the former left off 4½ better (30 to 31), and Carn Brea 5½ (28 to 30). Such mining shares as Wheal Agar, South Condor, Wheal Grenville, and West Godolphin may probably now be in better demand. The buying of West Chilverton goes on; shares were quoted to-day 14 to 15. Tankerville dull, and offered at 5½. Chicago a nominal market, and not better than 1½ to 1¾. Port Phillip, 10s. to 12s. 6d. Leadhills, 5 to 5½. Parys Mountain, 8s. to 10s. Great Western, at all times a peculiar market, being wanted to-day 10s. to 11s., and closed at 10½. British left off at 8½, and Metropolitan, 10½. Notice was given that the coupon on Egyptian Preference 5 per cent. stock would be duly met on the 15th inst. The price did not leave off better than 50, while the United was neglected at 33½.

WEDNESDAY.—The withdrawal of half-a-million of gold early in the day made many weak operators fearful of a change to-morrow in the Bank rate—close their accounts in railways. Berwick declined over 1 per cent., while Brighton, A, Caledonian, and Dover, A, all left off ¾ per cent. lower. But Egyptian stocks were firmer. The United Kingdom of late has been heard of a general rise, 1 to 1½; the Rhine closed 4½ better (43 to 44); Credit Company, 1 to 1½; General Credit, 6½ to 6¾; Imperial Credit, 7½ to 7¾; Milner's Safe, 8½ to 9½; Hudson Bay, 11½ to 11¾; Brighton Aquarium, 11½ to 12; Royal Aquarium, 5½ to 6½; Illinois Central had a rise of 2 to 4.

THURSDAY.—The Bank of England directors raised the rate to 4 per cent. The advance was greater than was generally expected, but the usual Bank return showed in the afternoon sufficient weakness to justify the change. The alteration did not prevent a rise in North British and Great Western. Illinois Central went up a further 8½. Tram shares were thus quoted—Belfast, 10½ to 10¾; Dublin, 10½ to 10¾; Edinburgh, 15½ to 15¾; Glasgow, 11½ to 11¾; Hull, 13½ to 13¾; Leeds, 9 to 9½; Sheffield, 10 to 10½; Swansea, 5½. In mines Ash ton was dealt in at 1½, Almaden at ¾, Cape Copper at 3½ (ex div.), Flagstaff at 2½, and Fronto at 3½.

FRIDAY (Opening).—The bidding for tin mining shares continues, and several that a fortnight ago had no marketable value are now being industriously sought after. Wheal Grenville, 2½ to 2¾; Wheal Agar, 3½ to 4½; Wheal Killy, 1½ to 2; Wheal Uney, 1 to 1½; Wheal Killy, 1 to 1½; South Condor, 7½ to 8; South Frances, 1½ to 1¾; Tincroft, 1½ to 1¾. Lead mining shares are still neglected. Rookhope, 18s. to 20s.; North Laxey, 12s. 6d. to 15s.; Tankerville, 5½ to 6½; South R. man Gravel, 3½ to 5½; Leadhills, 5 to 5½. In railways the tone is irregular, British and Caledonian being up, Great Western and Sheffield down. The Parys Mountain shares are still in demand. The stock markets are closing fairly firm. Egyptian Preference are 50, and the United 34. The exception are Peruvians, which have been offered since the morning. In mining shares Almaden has been dealt in at ¾, and the London and California at ¾; Port Phillip, 9s. to 11s.; Parys Mountain, 9s. to 11s.; Prince of Wales, 4s. to 6s.

Birchall Lane, Oct. 5.

A GOOD "STURT."—It is stated that a miner of Redruth, named Carvill, took a pitch on tribute in Wheal Uney at 15s. in 17, and having cut a good bunch of tin, will, after paying all cost, take 97½. His only comrade was a little boy, and together they have managed to sample 5 tons of tin.

QUARRIES OFFERED FOR SALE.—The De Lank Granite Quarries were submitted to auction at the Royal Hotel, Bodmin, by Mr. W. Philip, pursuant to an order from the Vice-Chancellor. The quarries are in the parish of St. Breward and Blandford, and distant from Bodmin about 6 miles. They have been worked for a number of years. Great interest in the sale was manifested by the people of the locality, and there was a large attendance. The competition, however, was very limited, confined to two bidders, one of whom was Mr. Sandoe, of the Royal Hotel, and a gentleman from London: 2000l. was bid by Mr. Sandoe, but no further advance being obtainable, the quarries remain unsold, in consequence of a reserve price made by the Vice-Chancellor. Ten 10l. shares in the Bodmin Waterworks, by the direction of the trustees of Charles Goodyear's estate, were sold at (including a call of 1s. per share) 2s. 6d. per share, to Mr. L. O. Foster.

BORING MACHINE.—From all the information we receive from our mining correspondents, the boring machines are going to accomplish a revolution in Cornish mines. The Barrow borer at Dolcoath, as we are told, is quite a success; and our correspondents now state that the Beaumont drill at Carn Brea is even more than

47. 3s.; quantity of fine copper, 103 tons 9 cwt. The following table shows the particulars:—

Date.	Tons.	Standard.	Produce.	Per ton.	Per unit.	Ore.
Sept. 6. 2027	£ 86 18 0	.....	73% £4 2 0	10s. 6d.	.....
20. 2028	88 0 0	.....	75% 4 3 0	9 3	.....
Oct. 4. 1292	84 5 0	.....	8 4 3 0	10 4	.....

Compared with the last sale, the advance has been in the state of the market.

47. 5s., and in the price per ton of ore about 6s. 9d.

1. In.—The prices of Scotch pigs have been slightly lower, and notwithstanding the large "bear" account that is said to be open they will in all probability continue to decline. The stock in stores increased last month to 161,001 tons, being an addition of 3369 tons, with warrants in circulation for 142,000 tons. Sellers have done very well in maintaining prices so long, but in the face of increasing stocks, and the prospect of diminished shipments shortly, they will, probably, have to give way in price, and the statistics by the end of the year will, doubtless, be more unfavourable than at the present time. It is evident that the consumption is not keeping pace with the supply, for the increase in stocks is not limited to Scotland, but extends to the whole of Great Britain, the total stock now being 260,000 tons, showing an increase of 6480 tons, with warrants in circulation for 28,800 tons; and as the prices there are something like 10s. per ton below those of Scotch, there seems to be a very poor chance for Scotch to improve, and if it had not been for speculative operations the price would not be so good now. The large "bear" accounts that are open are an evidence of the opinion entertained by a large portion of the trade that prices must go lower, and makers can not do better than book as many orders as possible for forward delivery; m. n.

FOR COPPER, TIN, LEAD, &c., apply to—
MESSRS. PELL, BOYLE, AND CO.,
SWORN METAL BROKERS,
ALLHALLOWS CHAMBERS, LOMBARD STREET, LONDON.
(ESTABLISHED 1849.)

METAL MARKET—LONDON, OCT. 5, 1877.

Week ending Sept. 30, 1876	Tons	12,911
Week ending Sept. 29, 1877		9,176
Decrease		3,735
Total increase for 1877		1,263
Imports of Middleborough pig-iron into Grangemouth:—		
Week ending Sept. 29, 1877	Tons	9,303
Week ending Sept. 30, 1876		4,455
Increase		4,848
Total increase for 1877		\$3,300
FURNACES.		
In blast Sept. 30, 1876		118
In blast Sept. 29, 1877		87

Some of the French pig-iron is of a fairly superior condition, but, according to recent accounts, it is stated that in the Champagne district the current of orders is sufficiently well sustained to produce a good relative activity. Merchants' iron, as well as special iron and sheets, is in good demand; on the other hand, machine iron is neglected, in consequence of a check in the exportation. The advances from the Loire up to the Rhone districts are less satisfactory, as buyers prefer awaiting the result of the approaching elections before entering into any fresh contracts. The Belgian trade is in a doubtful state, and business is very limited and prices easy, owing to the desire on the part of makers to maintain activity at their mills.

The market for American pig is said to betray a rather general

The Middleborough report states that forge iron does not go off so readily, and prices are lower; ironfounders find difficulty in getting work; and the finished-iron trade is dull. Plates are to be bought at 6s. 10s., and angles 7s. 6d. to 10s. less.

At Wolverhampton ironmasters of first-quality sheets have dropped their prices, and they can now be bought at 11l. per ton. From Lincolnshire the accounts are still unfavourable, and report buyers holding back for further reductions. In the Sheffield, Rotherham, and Leeds districts there is little or no change to note.

TIN.—The deliveries for September from London amount to 990 tons, and from Holland 478 tons, and the stock in London and afloat of Straits and Australian is 11,574 tons, together with that of Banca &c., in Holland, 16,694 tons. The figures, compared with last month show a slight diminution in the stock here and that which is on the way to London, and holders have, consequently, succeeded in obtaining a slight advance in the price of the metal.

tain the better price, but the market was considerably cooled by the ardour of speculators, and instead of being all buyers, as in the beginning of the week, several sellers came out, and the Australian, which has been quoted 66½. 10s. to 68½. 15s., declined to 65½. 10s. The excitement having now subsided, there is a better opportunity afforded for shareholders to decide upon what course they wish to pursue. The movement has been so far undisturbed, and the market is so well secured, that the Bank of England is not likely to be called upon to interfere. The Bank rate will not prove a serious impediment to the maintenance of the rise; but on the other hand, if it has only a weak foundation, a little matter would naturally soon upset the market, and especially if any sales have been made during the recent excitement to weak buyers. The depressed state of trade, however, will probably be sufficient to meet the market, and the evidence of the ability of the market to absorb the stock of the Bank is so strong, that the probability of prices would, undoubtedly, deter sellers from effecting contracts with a doubtful buyers without ample cover. The task which the operators of the present moment have undertaken is by no means a light and easy one, and it is hoped that they have not entered upon the experiment without sufficient power to uphold the market should it be necessary to do so. A strong and determined opposition is the general feeling is against a rise, principally because it is opposed to general interests; but the stock of 10,000 tons is acting like a tremendous incubus on the market, and unless undoubted evidence can be produced that it will be permanently lightened a rise in value can only be temporarily upheld. There are many persons who are not only prepared to sell a large quantity of the stock, but to sell the market and sell out a large quantity then; but the opportunity has been allowed to escape them, and if the chance again occurs they had better secure it without delay.

QUICKSILVER.—There has been no feature in this article during the past week, business to a fair extent having been daily transacted at 7½. But the speculative disposition to purchase at 7½ has apparently diminished in its intensity, probably because of the large London stock, and the continued heavy Californian production, which latter is advised as 7480 flasks for the month of August, or at the rate of nearly 90,000 flasks per annum. The shipments from San Francisco for the week ending the 13th ult. were 3368 flasks, against receipts 1738 flasks, thus absorbing part of the recent accumulation. The market is reported as unsettled, with but small parcels offering, but closed dull at 49 c.

THE IRON TRADE.—(Griffiths's Weekly Report).—Friday Evening
The Glasgow market for Scotch pig iron has been dull during the week. Yesterday the advance in the Bank rate had a depressing influence on prices, which drooped to 53s. 4d., with sellers at that price. To-day, Friday, the market opened firm, but soon fell from this afternoon, with buyers at 53s. 4d., and then, on Friday, when warrants closed 54s. 15d. We quote makers' No. 1 iron—Gartsherrie, 62s.; Coltness, 65s. 6d.; Calter, 61s.; Langloan, 63s. 4d.; Summerlee, 59s. 6d.; Monkland, 55s. 6d., f.o.b. Glasgow; Glengarnock, 60s.; Eglinton, 55s. 6d., f.o.b. Ardrossan; Shotts, 62s. 6d., f.o.b. Leith; Kennel, 66s., f.o.b. Bo'ness. Our immediate proximity to the quarterly meetings causes a slight pause in the business of the iron trade. The week which precedes the quarterly gathering of the iron trade is one singularly devoid of new business; this has often been remarked.

At Barrow on Monday the market was firm for hematite pigs, and the healthy demand for this iron for use in the Bessemer process and other purposes keeps it in blast nearly the whole of the plant in the district. At Middleborough on Tuesday the market was well attended, but quiet. Prices unaltered for pig iron. Manufactured iron shows no change. At Wolverhampton on Wednesday and Birmingham on Thursday the trade was quiet; all business of magnitude is reserved for the Birmingham Quarter-day, which takes place on Thursday next in the Exchange there. In accordance with notices issued by Messrs. Stainer and Co. of North Staffordshire, to their colliers and blast-furnace men, the firm have reduced wages by 10 per cent. The men wisely accepted the advice of their delegates, and submitted to the reduction without any strike. Several ironmasters at Wolverhampton are suffering severe injuries to their works from the injury to the accident-tunnels into the canal by some manufacturers there. Steps are being taken by the Canal Company to discover the perpetrators of the damage. A meeting of coal owners and delegates was held on Wednesday at Wolverhampton to make the preliminary arrangements for the settlement of a sliding scale to regulate wages and avoid strikes.

Messrs. VIVIAN, YOUNGER and BOND: COPPER: The market was dull and declining up to the end of the month, when a fair business was done down to 65*l*. 10*s*. for bars cash and three months prompt. During the last few days holders have been asking an advance of 1*s*. to 2*s*. on this figure; doubtless this is in a great measure owing to the absence of cable messages, for naturally importers would not have made any material advance in the price of the metal had they been on the other side by further purchases. Meanwhile the low prices realised at the Swansea ticketing have contributed a good deal towards this depression, but month by month a larger surplus of furnace material from abroad becomes available for the smelters, and in fact so far this year this increase amounts to about 8000 tons finished copper, whilst, owing partly to the continual increase amongst their old customers for the same metal, and partly to the increasing demand for the metal in the Straits in the general demand for brass and copper work, the smelters are ill provided with work to get rid of this surplus. We incline to the opinion that these rates will cause a decrease of production, and an increase of consumption, but of course it will be some time before the results are apparent. —TIN: The fluctuations during nearly the whole of the past month were unimportant, but the market has been rather steady since the 15th inst., and has advanced to 68*l*. 10*s*. as follows:—21,535 slabs, Banca, at 40 *fls*. 3*s*. equal to 68*l*. 10*s*. delivered here, and 3392 slabs Billiton at 31 *fls*. 7*s*. 5*c*. equal to 68*l*. 10*s*. per ton. The chief business was in Australia, at from 64*l*. 6*d*. to 65*l*. 6*d*. for spot parcels, up to 67*s*. 6*d*. being paid for forward delivery. Straits was dealt in at 65*l*. to 67*s*. 6*d*., but comparatively neglected. The Cornish standards were advanced 5*s*., and common Ingot quoted

Copper.....	England and Holland.....	Tons 32,103
Tin.....	England and Holland.....	12,735
Spelter.....	London. 203; outports. 707 =	910

At Redruth Ticketing, on Thursday, 1292 tons of copper ore were sold, realising 5369*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* The particulars of the sale were—Average standard, 86*l.* 5*s.*; average produce, 8; average price per ton

The MINING SHARE MARKET has been rather excited this by another rise in tin, making the third advance in the share for ore in Cornwall in three weeks. This has naturally imp the share markets generally, and if copper and lead should im which is not at all unlikely, a general rise in prices must place. Many mines have been for months past greatly depressed and below their real value, and the few inquiries now quietly for them show that it is almost impossible to get shares at the tions when any demand arises. The mines mostly in favour been Dolcoath, Carn Brea, West Chiverton, Kookhoe, Mountain, Wheal Grenville, New Chiverton, East Pool, Th Great Laxey, and a few others.

At the Copper Ticketing on Thursday the standard for ores advanced 4/ 5s. per ton. The average price of the ore cent. produce, was 4/ 3s. per ton. Money realised, 5390/.

TIN MINES have received the greatest amount of attention, and quotations are higher, but we do not hear of many transactions. There have been plenty of buying orders, but the difficulty is—and this is what we anticipated—in finding Dolcoaths have advanced from 25 to 30, 32½, leaving off 28½. Carn Brea from 21 to 29, 31; Tincroft, 10 to 12, 14. Cooks' have risen from 4s. to 20s., 25s.; East Pool, 8 to 9. South Wales have risen from 13s. 6d. to 30s., 35s.; West Frances, to 25. This mine, it is hoped, with a better price for tin, may be profitable. Wheal Grenville are better, at 2½ to 23; South Corn not so firm, at 7½ to 8; Wheal Pevor, 4 to 4½; Wheal Bassett advanced to 10 to 12; Wheal Godolphin, 1½ to 2; the new ones expected to be completed and put to work during the next week; Wheal Agar, 3½ to 4; Wheal Jane, ½ to 1; Wheal K Agnes, 1½ to 2; Wheal Uny, 1 to 1½.

COPPER MINES.—The greatest feature here is the rise in Mountain shares, equal to about cent. per cent. from the prices reached. There has been a good demand for them, and prices leave off 9s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. Particulars of the meeting may be found in another column. The shareholders who attended represented 5000 shares, were unanimous against the winding up of the company, and resolved to limit the issue of Morfa-Du shares, as suggested in last week's Journal. This is regarded as giving a valuable "option" to present subscribers, and it is thought that they will apply up to a certain date. West Tolgus, 74 to 76; the Thursday (340 tons) realised 2068s. Devon Great Consols, 3; Wheal Crebor, 1½ to 2; the sampling here is 285 tons of copper for the quarter. East Caradon, 4½ to 5; Marke Valley, 4½ to 5; Wales, 4s. to 6s.; South Caradon, 90 to 100; Tolgus 100 to 54. West Seton, 20 to 25; the sales of copper ore on Thursday realised 390l. At the Gwanton Copper meeting the accounts showed a profit of 400l. against the mine, and a call of 2s. per share was made. The mine is reported as looking well.

Among LEAD MINES Hookhope have been in good request 1½; the accounts presented to the meeting on Thursday, particulars of which will be found in another column, show led 410 tons, 4949s. 15s.; balance of assets over liabilities, 2230s. The directors' report states the returns for the last three 40 tons per month, have exceeded the working costs by 18s. withstanding the fall in lead; the sampling this month is Derwent, 2 to 3; full particulars of this meeting will be in another column. The accounts show sales of lead ore to June, 206 tons, 5416s. 15s. 6d.; expenditure on capital 1933s. 16s. 8d.; monthly expenditure, 6350s. 2s. 3d.; balance forward, 15379s. 2s. 9d. In the three months since June sales have realised 1724s. The agents hope that as the level is extended, and more men are employed in stoping, that the mine will do well, and prove itself to be a lasting and permanent concern. The accounts for the last three months, ending at Glenroy, ½ to 1½; the accounts to be presented to the meeting a balance of assets over liabilities of 9208s. 16s. 5d. The mine have amounted to 659s. 1s. 5d. The lode in the shaft continues wide, and here at present the mine would seem to present good prospects of success.

Great Laxey made all its riches in depth, and if in shaft there a course of ore should be met with it would cause ment. North Laxey, 13s. 6d. to 15s. 6d.; there is an impr 6 fms. below the 121; lode 6 ft. wide, and worth fully 30 lead per fathom. Great Laxey, 20½ to 21½; Roman Gravel at 8½ to 8¾; Tankerville, 5½ to 5½; South Roman Gravel 12s. 6d. West Tankerville, ¾ to 1; the sale of ore here, realised 428½ 15s., and 20 tons of blende have been Temple, 1¼ to 2¼; there is said to be a course of ore in worth 1 ton of lead per fathom. Van enquired for at 3 Van Consoles, ¾ to ¾; East Van, 4 to 4½; West Chiverion, West Craven Moor, 9½ to 10½; Aberdaunt, ¾ to ¾; Asheton East Craven Moor, 9½ to 10½; Glyn, ¾ to ¾; Herodods Llannrwst, 2 to 2½; Ladywell, 1 to 1½; Leadhills, 5 to 5½ Bridge, 1½ to 2½; West Pateley, 1½ to 2. Pandorn, ¾ to 1 improvement has taken place here. West Ashton, ¾ to 1 seed, 5½ to 6½, ex div.; another parcel of 50 tons of lead will on Thursday next. The mine is reported to be looking better. Pennant, 5½ to 6; Great Holway, 5 to 6; Caron, Grogwinion, 2½ to 3½; Red Rock, 2 to 2½; South Cwm 2½ to 3½; St. Harmon, 2½ to 3½; Wye Valley, 2 to 3; W

FOREIGN MINES.—Argentina, 23 to 34; Blue Tent, Condes of Chili, 23 to 34; Cape Copper, 33 to 35; Chontale, Eberhardt and Aurora, 5 to 54; Exchequer, 4s. to 6s.; 2½ to 2½; Frontino and Bolivia, 3 to 3½; Javalí, 6s. to 8s.; 1 to 1½; Lust Chance, ½ to 1½; Malpaso, ½ to ½; New Que to 3; Port Phillip, ½ to ½, ex div.; Richmond, 4½ to 5½; del Rey, 310 to 320; Tecoma, ½ to ½.

The Market for Mine Shares on the Stock Exchange generally improved during the week, and there is also better feeling as to the future. The rise in the price of last week has been followed by a decided improvement in price on Thursday the standard for copper ore sold at Redruth at 4/ 5s., making a difference in favour of the miner of nearly one ton of ore sold. The effect of these movements has been to create the opinion that the worst has now really been and that we are once more progressing towards that prosperity which is so desirable for the welfare of mining.

In Carn Brea, Tincroft, Dolcoath, and West Chertion rises have been established, and the shares in many other mines certainly more readily saleable than they have been for a considerable time past. In foreign mine shares no corresponding improvement is discernible, and Cape Copper has also largely declined. The improvement may have some influence in bringing forward enterprises for working or reworking home mines, it may lead to consider whether some better system of constitution of companies adopted which will secure proper working of mines, prevention of creditors, and also to afford full protection to capitalists. The recent exposures in connection with concerns managed on the Cost-book System have proved that not only does that system afford no protection to capitalists, but actually places them in a worse position than partners in the most ill-constituted concerns, the holder of a single Cost-book share being liable, and utterly ruined through the paternal government exercises of injudicious or perhaps interested purser; whilst the Liability principle has been declared equally objectionable, the facilities which it offers the scandalous practice of "syndicating" which has now become almost general; indeed, it is difficult to point to a company which has been formed or reconstituted in the past few years which has been otherwise floated. In the case of the independent capitalist inevitably loses the greater part of the whole of his investment, whilst the larger proportion of the subscribed goes into the pockets of the promoters, who

the vendors, instead of being applied for developing the mine. These evils can readily be avoided by the adoption of the principle of the Cost-book and Limited Liability principles, as recommended by the sections of the Companies Act authorising the formation of companies "limited by guarantee," and suggested by the *Mining Journal* by Mr. Anthony Pulbrook, who had much experience in connection with the work of the Acts in question, and whose annotated edition of them would be the best published. For the working of mines what is popularly described as the "Cost-book Company limited" would leave nothing to be desired, and would be applicable in every part of the kingdom. The nefarious practices of the present system would be rendered impossible, and as every possible protection could be afforded to capitalists that their subscriptions would be applied to the working of the mines, the difficulty of raising the necessary capital would be much diminished, and the capitalists and promoters would be permanently benefited.

At the Copper, 33 to 35; with reference to the observations in last week's Journal as to the undesirability of paying the last dividend, the *Original Shareholder* writes that, taking the company's return, the general liabilities have diminished from 139,693*l.* in 1872 to 127,272*l.* in 1877. The company has, moreover, during the year, expended 167,866*l.* in constructing the railway, and the reserve fund has increased from 140,000*l.* in 1872 to 187,000*l.* in 1877, and the annual returns have increased 50 per cent., reaching 12,000 tons in 1877. It is, therefore, taking the fact as stated in the *Journal*, including the dividend of 21,000*l.* was earned (20,000*l.* being sufficient for the usual dividend), the directors would have falsified all their previous statements, if they had broken the regularity of the dividend, because of a fall in the price of copper ore that may be, but is only temporary, especially as it is perfectly well known that even at present prices the Cape Copper Mining Company is making large profits, owing to the great reduction in exchange which the directors have effected.

The profit for the six months to the end of June, 5 to 6*l.* (ex div.), which considering the reduced price of the lead sold is regarded as satisfactory. Further economies have been effected in the management. A dividend of 6*l.* 8*d.* per share is payable on Oct. 13, and after paying this and adding 500*l.* to the reserve fund (raising it to 390,34*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.*) there will be 11*l.* 11*d.* to carry forward. Alameda, 1*l.* 1*d.* (ex div.); the profit exceeds that of the previous half-year. The reserve fund has been debited with 231*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.* expended on the new works at C. d. v. a; three furnaces are already at work. A dividend of 1*l.* per share is payable on Oct. 13, and after payment of this there remains 256*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.* to carry forward. Fortuna, 5 to 6*l.* (ex div.); the profit for the six months was 837*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.*, or about the same as the previous half-year. The prospects for the ensuing year, both at Canada Inco and Los Salidos, are encouraging. The ground having been discovered since last meeting. The mining establishment has been extended, and the railway from the mine to Pozo Ancho now gives the company the advantage of carriage direct from the mines. After payment of a dividend of 1*l.* 1*d.* per share on Oct. 13, and adding 500*l.* to the reserve fund amounting to 783*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*, there remains 631*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* to carry forward. The meetings of these three companies will be held on Thursday next.

John del Rey, 310 to 320; the latest telegram from Morro de la Bahia, Oct. 1, states that the produce for the second month (11 days) of September was 15,250 o*z.*, value 5909*l.* The telegram giving the ley of the ore is unintelligible. It is 14 to 24; Mr. Oxlard's own experiments with ore from the mine is said to have yielded good results, but the report adds nothing to the extreme hardness of the calcined ore from the mine of the Pique, and the feeble grinding action of the present mill does not appear to be possible to treat the ore with great rapidity. Another great obstacle is the difficulty of drying the ore, more especially so in the wet and unsettled weather experienced, so as to bring it to a fit state to enter the calciner. The adoption of the grinder pans, &c., recommended by Mr. del Rey, will remove all these difficulties. Bar gold obtained in the month from 350 tons of ore, 216*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*

Frontino and Bolivia, 3 to 3*l.*; the profit for the month ending 31st amounted to 243*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*. In addition to the monthly cost of 1*l.* 11*d.*, there has been expended 1477*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* on capital. It appears that only 24 tons of mineral were taken from the mine, and that this produced 44 o*z.* of gold, nearly 1*l.* per ton. Mr. White took special note of the stuff sent to the stamps, and he calculated only about 24 tons of the total was mineral from the lode, the rest being stuff from the hanging-wall, which is soft, while the footwall and mineral both hard. The manager adds that he is well satisfied that the stuff from this mine is as rich as they expected. The bankers state that they are in hopes that soon all the mines will give a good yield, and that the company will have a long epoch of prosperity.

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is understood there are few offering; and it seems likely the number will decrease, as by the report from the great influx of water in the shaft it is expected that a discovery will be made there of a lode running parallel to the I. X. L., and may converge into it sooner than was originally anticipated.

In the shares of Lead Mines there has also been a better feeling. Van, 30 to 32; the operations at the mine are progressing as favourably as usual. Grogwinion, 24 to 34; the sale of 100 tons of lead realised 12*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* per ton, being an advance of 5*s.* 6*d.* over previous sale. Wye Valley, 2 to 3; the meeting is called for the 8th inst. West Wye Valley, 2 to 3; no news to report this week. St. Harmon, 24 to 34; all going on well at the mine. South Cwmystwith, 24 to 34. Caron, 24 to 28; a meeting is to be held on the mine on the 16th inst. Red Rock, 2 to 2*l.*; satisfactory progress is making at all points.

Subjoined are the closing quotations:—
Aasheton, 1 to 1*l.*; Carn Brea, 30 to 32; Devon Great Consols, 3 to 3*l.*; Dolcoath, 30 to 33; East Caradon, 34 to 36; East Van, 34 to 4; Glenroy, 34 to 1; Glyn, 34 to 36; Great Laxey, 34 to 36; Hingston Down, 34 to 36; Leadhills, 5 to 5*l.*; Marke Valley, 34 to 36; Parys Mountain, 34 to 36; Pateley Bridge, 2 to 2*l.*; Pennerley, 1-18ths to 3-16ths; Penrith, 3-16ths to 5-16ths; Roman Gravel, 34 to 36; Tankerville, 54 to 56; Tincroft, 12 to 14; Van, 30 to 32; Van Consols, 34 to 36; West Aasheton, 34 to 36; West Chiverton, 13 to 15; West Tankerville, 34 to 36; Wheel Grenville, 2 to 2*l.*; Alameda and Tinto, 34 to 36; Argentine, 15 to 16; Birdseye Creek, 34 to 36; Blue Tent, 3 to 3*l.*; Cape Copper, 33 to 34; Cedar Creek, 34 to 36; Chontales, 34 to 36; Colorado Terrible, 15 to 16; Condesa de Chili, 24 to 34; Don Pedro, 34 to 36; Eberhardt and Aurora, 5 to 5*l.*; Exchequer, 34 to 36; I. X. L., 3-16ths to 5-16ths; Emma, 34 to 36; Flagstaff, 24 to 26; Frontino and Bolivia, 24 to 34; Javali, 34 to 36; Kapanga, 1 to 1*l.*; Last Chance, 34 to 36; New Pacific, 34 to 36; New Quebrada, 24 to 26; Pestarena, 34 to 36; Plumas Eureka, 24 to 34; Port Phillip, 7-16ths to 9-16ths; Richmond Consolidated, 5 to 5*l.*; St. John del Rey, 310 to 320; San Pedro, 34 to 36; Sierra Buttes, 15 to 16; South Aurora, 34 to 36; Teama, 34 to 36; United Mexican, 15 to 16; Oregon, 34 to 36; West Pateley, 34 to 36; 1 to 2.

COLLIERIES.—The past week has been somewhat dull as regards business in this class of shares, and few transactions have taken place. Prices, however, have been fairly maintained, and in one or two cases a slight improvement may be recorded. The reports from the coal districts are this week hardly so satisfactory as at the date of our last issue, though in house coal there is a little more activity, and in some cases better prices have been obtainable. Altamir shares have been dealt in at prices running between 4 and 5. The main coal is still opening up well. Llay Halls, 8 to 10; this colliery has again slightly increased its output, and before long will be raising a greatly increased quantity of coal. Mold Argodes have been offered, and close at 2 to 2*l.* Chapel House shares remain firm, at about 3 to 3*l.*; the business of the company continues to be most satisfactory, the large rate of profit made being steadily maintained. The new 15 ft. ft. pit is now down 300 yards, and will be completed to the same depth as the 16-ft. pit by about the end of the year, after which the output—and, consequently, the profits—will be greatly increased.

The new company to work the Ynyscedwyn Collieries will probably be placed before the public during the coming week. We understand that the greater portion of the shares have already been subscribed for privately. New Sharlston shares are slightly firmer, and close at 34 to 36; Newport Abercroms close the week at 4 to 4*l.*; Thorpe Gawther, 24 to 34; Pelsall Coal, 3 to 3*l.*; Andrew Knowles, 17 to 18; Cakemore, 2 to 2*l.*; and Carliff and Swansea, 15*s.* to 25*s.*

Mr. Justice Lopes, for the Master of the Rolls, has made an order directing the compulsory winding-up of the Investors' Trust, and Mr. Edward Hart (Hart Brothers, Tibbets, and Co., Moorgate-street) has been appointed the official liquidator.

A petition for the winding-up of the Sanitary Carbon Company is to be heard on Oct. 11.

NORTH HENDRE (Lead).—We are pleased to hear of the increased prosperity of this mine, as it makes the Halkyn district once more prominent. The sight on the bank is truly cheerful, with about 150 tons of bright ore dressed ready for market next week, and another lot on the dressing-floors, &c. There are six or eight ends producing splendid ore. We understand that another dividend of 5 per cent. (the fourth this year) will be declared this month, and the general prospects are really what this enterprising company deserve. The mine is worked in the most honest manner, and every effort made to make it permanently what it now is—one of the first dividend mines in Wales, although scarcely known in the London market.

WEST ROSKEAR.—This mine will soon be drained to the 24, which will then be driven to get under the promising lode standing in the bottom of the 12. In the latter place the lode is 5 ft. wide, and of a strong and masterly appearance, and the level has been driven many fathoms through the most favourable indications for a fine discovery at the 24. A cross-cut will be driven at the 24 to intersect the cauter lode in the eastern ground, and from which a considerable quantity of silver lead has already been raised and sold, some of the ore having realised 26*l.* per ton, and another parcel will be sampled next week. Copper ore and blende are also in a forward state for sampling, and, altogether, the prospects of the mine are of the most encouraging character. The present company only commenced operations in May last, and the progress made may be considered as highly satisfactory for so brief a period. The mine is one of, if not the best, young speculations in the western part of Cornwall.

SOUTH MOLTON CONSOLS.—A portable steam pumping-engine has been hired for this mine, and operations will be commenced next week; and parties who knew the state of the mine when it was suddenly stopped in 1874 say that the 12 ft. level will be drained in a few days after, and a good lode of lead ore reached. Mr. John Watson, of Gracechurch-street, has been appointed the secretary, and Capt. Hosking, of Wheel Agar, the manager of the mine.

TECOMA.—Prospecting is continued in the Barker incline, and the percentage of lead in the ore is decreasing, while that of silver is improving. One carload of ore recently sold at 35*s.* per ton assayed 39.5 per cent. of lead and 30.33 o*z.* of silver. The manager writes hopefully of improved developments.

PANDORA.—An important discovery has been made during the past week. The 33 cross-cut east has cut rich stones of lead and blende, believed to be a branch which was met with in the upper levels just before reaching the lode. A most favourable change has also taken place in the 23 north on Goddard's lode, where what appears to be another course of ore has been reached. From all indications a large and profitable run of ore should now speedily be laid open.

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Also, a BOLLER of Lancashire type, about 30 feet long, 7 feet diameter, with fittings, complete.
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Having recently succeeded in REFINING the AUSTRALIAN TIN to the HIGHEST PITCH OF PURITY, the Undersigned is prepared to SUPPLY an article equal to the BEST REFINED ENGLISH.
The uniform assay of the "Kangaroo" brand ranges from 99.70 to 99.90 pure tin. An exhaustive comparative trial of various brands of Australian tin (see annexed report) have proved the

"KANGAROO" BRAND
To be superior to all other Australian tin, and equal to best refined English.
COPY OF REPORT.

"Sydney Galvanising Works, Sydney, Oct. 1, 1875."
"DEAR SIR,—I have much pleasure in stating that I have found the tin smelted at the 'Kangaroo' Tin Smelting Works superior to any other Australian smelted tin I have used in my business up to the present time, and in no way inferior but quite equal to the celebrated 'Lamb and Flag' tin. This opinion has been arrived at after several carefully executed practical tests, as well as from metallurgical assays."
"I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,
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Messrs. JOHNSON, MATTHEY, AND CO., the well-known Assayers, report on 24th December, 1875, on a shipment ex Durham, 25 tons of "KANGAROO" TIN, 99.95 per cent. pure tin.

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Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.
Argentine	1 3/4 .. 2	Marke Valley	15 <i>s.</i> .. 17 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>
Aasheton	1 3/4 .. 1 1/2	Minera	41 <i>s.</i> .. 42 <i>s.</i>
Bodidris	23 .. 25	North Laxey	13 <i>s.</i> .. 15 <i>s.</i>
Carn Brea	34 .. 36	New Quebrada	24 1/2 .. 25 1/2
Chontales	34 .. 36	New Zealand Kapanga	1 .. 1 1/2
Derwent	1 1/2 .. 1 3/4	Parys Mountain	10 <i>s.</i> .. 12 <i>s.</i>
Devon Great Consols	3 .. 3 1/2	Pateley Bridge	2 .. 2 1/2
Dolcoath	31 .. 33	Richmond	5 .. 5 1/2
Don Pedro	9 <i>s.</i> .. 10 <i>s.</i>	Roman Gravel	8 1/2 .. 8 3/4
Eberhardt	4 1/2 .. 5 1/2	Rookhope	17 <i>s.</i> .. 19 <i>s.</i>
East Caradon	5 <i>s.</i> .. 7 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	San Pedro	3 1/2 .. 3 3/4
East Van	4 <i>s.</i> .. 5 1/2	South Condurow	7 1/2 .. 7 3/4
Exchequer Gold	4 <i>s.</i> .. 5 1/2	Tankerville	6 1/2 .. 6 3/4
Flagstaff	2 1/2 .. 2 3/4	Tincroft	10 .. 12 1/2
Frontino	3 .. 3 1/2	Van	30 .. 32
Glenroy	15 <i>s.</i> .. 20 <i>s.</i>	Van Consols	7 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> .. 12 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>
Glyn	7 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> .. 12 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	West Chiverton	14 .. 15
Great Laxey	20 .. 21	West Pateley Bridge	1 .. 1 1/2
Javali	5 <i>s.</i> .. 7 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	West Godolphin	2 .. 2 1/2
Last Chance	17 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> .. 20 <i>s.</i>	West Tankerville	15 <i>s.</i> .. 17 <i>s.</i>
Ludwell	2 .. 2 1/2	West Wye Valley	2 1/2 .. 3
Llanrwst	2 .. 2 1/2	W. Grenville	15 1/2 .. 2
Leadhills	5 .. 5 1/2	Wheel Kitty	15 1/2 .. 2
		Wye Valley	2 1/2 .. 3

FOR SALE, the WHOLE or PART:—
100 ABERDAUNANT .. £0 8 0 .. 25 GLYN £0 10 0
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Particulars of this very valuable Mine will be found in the SIXTH EDITION of Mr. MURCHISON's work on BRITISH LEAD MINES, published THIS DAY, with Maps, &c., price 2*s.* 6*d.* The Prefaces to the Six Editions price 1*s.*
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FOR THE YEAR 1876,
With an APPENDIX.
By ROBERT HUNT, F.R.S.
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Notices to Correspondents.

* * * Much inconvenience having arisen in consequence of several of the Numbers being sent the past year being out of print, we recommend that the Journal should be sent on receipt; it then forms an accumulating useful work of reference.

CORNISH MINING.—"T. W. D." (Glasgow).—The only work at all answering the description is Messrs. Phillips and Darlington's Records of Mining and Metallurgy, and even that has, we believe, been long out of print; it was published by Messrs. E. and F. N. Spon, of Charing Cross, to whom application may be made. They also publish a book by André bearing upon the subject.

Received.—"J. R." (Lancaster County). A letter has been forwarded, as requested.—"Gyllingdale" (Flagstaff and Professor Vincent). The comments are far too personal for publication. The gist of the letter is to ascertain where the Professor obtained his mining experience, and perhaps that information may be forwarded.—"J. H. S." (Senex) (Parys Mountain). We hope all the writer anticipates may be realised.—"A Former Shareholder" (Wheat Grenville) should have forwarded his letter to the Secretary, who might in reply have sent the desired information.—"Constant Reader" (Sunderland). An article on the deepest mines was published in the Journal of July 15.—"Shareholder" (Van Consoles).—"W. R." (Goole).—"Miner" (Doyle). We should be glad to have the particulars.—"Stannum"—"W. T." (Ballydeobob).

IMPORTANT NOTICE.—REDUCTION OF POSTAGE ON THE "MINING JOURNAL."—In consequence of the new POSTAL CONVENTION, which came into operation on July 1, the postage of the Mining Journal to many countries will be reduced to one fourth. Henceforth the subscription will be 11. 10s. 4d. per annum (39 frs.), postage included, for the following countries. The amount will, if desired, be collected at the subscriber's residence at the end of each year. The subscription continues until countermanded:—Austria, France, Belgium, Denmark (including Iceland and the Faroe Islands), Egypt, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Holland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal (including Madeira and the Azores), Roumania, Russia, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, United States, Malta, Turkey, Morocco, Tunis, and the Canary Islands. Spain 11. 19s. (50 frs.).

THE MINING JOURNAL.

Railway and Commercial Gazette.

LONDON, OCTOBER 6, 1877.

THE RATING OF COLLIERIES IN WALES.

In no part of the kingdom has there been a greater diversity of opinion with respect to the mode of rating collieries than in South Wales, whilst the loss in legal expenses to mineowners and boards of guardians of late must have been very heavy. Year after year the assessments are made only to be followed by appeals to Quarter Sessions, in many instances resulting in considerable reductions. This year it is evident is to be no exception to its predecessors, for only last week there was a large gathering of colliery-owners at Pontypridd for the purpose of considering what steps should be taken as to the appeals against the assessments made in that Union. Mr. HEDLEY, of Sunderland, is the valuer on behalf of the county, and it appears he has made no less than three valuations for the acceptance of the colliery-owners, but no decision was come to with respect to any of them. Now, we certainly do not see why proprietors of mining property should be kept in a constant state of fermentation and put to serious expense in having their mines valued for assessment. All that they require is that they shall be treated in a fair and equitable manner, the same as other ratepayers, but as in most Unions the guardians are principally farmers or ordinary tradesmen, who think that coal is capable of standing almost any strain or burden, and consequently look to being themselves relieved at the cost of the colliery-owners. This state of things will doubtless continue so long as the rating of mines is left to individual raprice or to persons without any clear or defined general plan. That this is the case will be at once evident on a perusal of the returns recently issued on the motion of Mr. KNOWLES, showing the gross estimated rental and rateable value of coal, ironstone, and other mines. From it we notice that almost every Union adopts a different system in arriving at the gross estimated rental of mining properties, and in the deductions in determining the rateable value. In some instances no difference whatever is made between the gross estimate rental and the rateable value, whilst in others the rate is fixed by taking 25 per cent. off the gross estimated rental, or, as we find in other instances, the gross rental is arrived at by adding from 5 to 25 per cent. to the rateable value. Surely where such marked discrepancies are found the colliery-owners must be fully justified in opposing the rates levied upon them by an irresponsible individual, who knows that he will be energetically supported by the body who employ him, the members of which being interested in having coal mines rated as high as possible. But this state of things cannot go on much longer, and as there has been so much special legislation of late years with respect to the working of mines, greatly increasing the cost of keeping them going, it is necessary that there should be a clear and well defined law with respect to the valuing of mines for rateable purposes, instead of the present fast and loose system. That there is a great difference in the various Unions as to the mode of assessment, and consequently of the amounts paid for rates by different colliery-owners working exactly the same seam of coal, and under the same expense, will be seen from the following returns for the various Unions and counties in North and South Wales as to gross estimated rental and aggregate rateable value:—

	Number of mines.	Gross estimated rental.	Aggregate rateable value.
Brecon—Crickhowell	1	£ 1,760	£ 1,760
Carmarthen—Carmarthen	1	600	600
Llandafawr	16	3,750	2,330
Llanelli	43	16,385	13,872
Denbigh—Wrexham	32	24,206	21,294
Flint—Hawarden	15	10,434	8,361
Holywell	26	19,464	16,681
Glamorgan—Bridgend, &c.	22	27,560	27,560
Cardiff	6	2,538	2,232
Gower	65	19,430	16,276
Merthyr Tydfil	95	194,310	155,700
Neath	45	27,291	25,905
Pontardawe	37	18,431	17,537
Pontypridd	79	154,873	123,799
Swansea	26	11,093	11,093
Montgomery—Haverfordwest	4	870	652
Pembroke—Narberth	9	3,144	2,475
Total	418	£518,785	£432,728

From these figures it will be seen that in Brecon the rental and aggregate rateable value are the same, whilst in Carmarthen, where there is only one mine, the rateable value is one-third less than the estimated rental. Coming, however, to the important county of Glamorgan, the principal one in South Wales so far as regards the quantity of coal raised, we find great difference with respect to the valuations in the various Unions.

Merthyr Tydfil it will be seen is the heaviest assessed of the colliery unions in the county, the rule or basis upon which the gross estimated rental is arrived at being by adding 25 per cent. to the rateable value. We are not told how the rateable value itself is struck. Things, however, are different in the Neath Union, where the value is ascertained by rating the quantity of coal worked at the various collieries at so much per ton, returns of which were made every half-year, and the gross estimated rental is arrived at by adding 5 per cent. to the rateable value. At Pontardawe, where there are some 37 collieries, a somewhat dissimilar mode prevails. The returns of the workings are sent to the Clerk to the Guardians by the colliery proprietors, when the pits are rated according to the number of tons worked on a basis framed by the Assessment Committee at 7d., 8d., and 9d. per ton, 5 per cent. being allowed in determining the rateable value. Pontypridd Union stands next to Merthyr, the mines having been valued by Mr. HEDLEY, but it is stated that the Assessment Committee are unable to answer the question as to the scale of the deductions in determining the rateable value, but the gross estimated rental is arrived at by adding 25 per cent. to the rateable value. Proceeding farther on, we find that at Swansea the gross rental is estimated upon the quantity of coal worked during the year, the average being about 6½d. per ton. By this means the aggregate gross rental and the aggregate rateable value are both the same. Haverfordwest boasts of one colliery, but the rating is entirely different to what it is in Glamorganshire, the

rental being fixed according to the royalty for the coal raised, but in the rating 25 per cent. is allowed for repairs, machinery, &c. A similar mode with respect to rental is carried out at Narberth, in Pembrokeshire, but in determining the rateable value allowance is made for waste and consumption by engine, but on no fixed scale, percentage being taken off according to the circumstances of each case. In Carmarthen another change takes place, for in that Union one-third is taken off the royalty in fixing the rate, whilst in Llandelaw the royalty is 6d. per ton, and there is an average deduction of 15 per cent. from the rateable value. In Llanelli there is another wide difference, for the royalty is assumed at 8d. per ton, from which a deduction in determining the rateable value of 1½d. per ton is made.

In North Wales marked changes again take place, for we find that in the Wrexham Union, in which there are the largest number of collieries of any in the northern part of the Principality, there is no fixed rule on which the gross estimated rental is arrived at. In some parishes it is estimated, or rather assessed, at 11½d. in others at 11d., and in some others at 10d. per ton. In most parishes, however, 12½ per cent. is deducted from the gross to arrive at the rateable, and in the remainder 10 per cent. At Hawarden, in Flintshire, the basis on which the gross estimated rental is arrived at is by taking 8d. per ton on the quantity of coal and slack raised, and allowing a reduction of 20 per cent. in determining the actual rateable value. At Holywell, in the same county, the gross it appears is fixed upon the amount of royalty paid during the preceding year; a free and easy way certainly, but one we should say that cannot be altogether satisfactory. Still, the Union evidently treats the colliery-owners with some consideration, for, from the assumed royalty on a given quantity of coal, 20 per cent. is deducted to arrive at the rateable value, and 10 per cent. upon the buildings.

It will be apparent from what we have shown that the present system, or rather systems, of rating collieries in Wales in particular is fraught with gross and glaring inconsistencies, and in many instances presses most unfairly upon a class that has never shown any disinclination to bear a fair share of all local burdens. The assessment committees may be quite disinterested, but it is an admitted fact that those ratepayers who feel obliged to appeal against their ratings are mostly colliery owners who are by far the largest contributors towards the support of the poor. The only course left open for them to adopt is to apply to the Legislature to lay down one uniform system for the rating of mines, so as to avoid that costly litigation, ill feeling, and unfairness which are engendered by the present complicated modes in force by the various Poor Law Unions throughout the kingdom.

THE COPPER TRADE.

During the quarter ending Sept. 30 the quantity of copper ore, the produce of Cornwall and Devonshire, sold at the Cornish Ticketing, was 14,111 tons, which contained 983 tons 2 cwt. fine copper, and realised 53,320 11s., being equal to an average of 31. 15s. 7d. per ton of ore, and 54½s. per ton of copper in the ore. During the same period the British, colonial, and foreign ores sold at Swansea amounted to 17,972 tons, which contained 2220 tons 13 cwt. of fine copper, and realised 133,294 18s., being equal to an average of 74. 8s. 5d. per ton of ore, and 60½s. 6d. per ton of copper in the ore. The average produce of the ore sold at the Cornish Ticketings was 7 per cent., whilst that sold at Swansea gave an average produce of 12½ per cent. From this it will be seen that the aggregate sales by ticket were 32,083 tons of ore, containing 3203 tons 15 cwt. of fine copper, and realising 186,615 9s. The subjoined is a summary of the periodical sales at the Cornish and Swansea Ticketings respectively. The ores sold at the Cornish Ticketings were—

Date.	Standard.	Prod.	Price.	Per unit.	Tons.	Fine cop.	Amount.
July 5...	99 0 0	75%	24 16 0	12s. 7 d.	1713	130t. 14c.	£ 2,231 15 6
18...	99 7 0	65%	3 19 6	11 11	3447	232 19	13,665 0 6
Aug. 2...	90 14 0	5	4 9 6	11 2½	1274	101 12	5,700 6 6
23...	96 16 0	6	3 2 6	10 5	3670	181 19	8,337 6 6
Sept. 6...	88 18 0	7½%	4 2 0	10 5	2037	159 13	8,297 11 0
20...	88 0 0	6½%	3 1 0	9 3	2980	196 5	9,079 11 0

Total for the quarter	14,111	983	2...	£53,320 11 0
Quarter ending June, 1877	13,013	913	19...	57,041 9 6
Quarter ending March, 1877	13,407	898	14...	56,354 9 0
Quarter ending December, 1876	14,120	943	9...	61,079 0 6
Total for the year	54,551	3739	4...	£228,798 10 0
Showing a quarterly average of	13,638	934	16...	57,198 17 6
Corresponding quarter Sept., 1876	14,075	933	14...	65,879 5 6

The ores sold at the Swansea Ticketings were—

Date.	Standard.	Prod.	Price.	Per unit.	Tons.	Fine cop.	Amount.
July 10...	200 11 6	16 1-16	211 0 1	13s. 8½	2314	376t. 16c.	£26,798 2 0
24...	87 8 9	10½%	6 9 8	12 7½	3029	340 15	19,844 17 0
Aug. 7...	84 19 0	8 1-16	4 15 7	11 10	2618	202 9	13,011 10 0
14...	83 11 6	8 13-16	5 3 0	11 8½	1854	163 10	9,561 16 8
28...	82 9 9	12½%	7 10 8	11 10½	2373	300 6	17,816 7 0
Sept. 11...	81 19 11-16	7 7 3	11 7	10	3640	482 17	26,804 12 0
25...	79 14 9	16½%	9 15 3	11 7	2216	374 0	21,637 14 6

Total for the quarter	17,972	2220	13...	£133,294 18 0
Quarter ending June, 1877	11,016	1828	7...	124,083 13 6
Quarter ending March, 1877	10,191	1513	1...	109,829 7 0
Quarter ending December, 1876	9,779	1375	2...	102,068 10 0
Total for the year	48,958	6938	3...	£499,332 9 6
Showing a quarterly average of	12,240	1734	11...	117,333 2 3
Corresponding quarter Sept., 1876	11,867	1690	5...	117,734 8 0

IRON AND STEEL EXPERIMENTS.

Last week a large company assembled at the works of Messrs. D. ARMSON and Co., Hyde Junction, near Manchester, to witness a series of experiments for the purpose of testing the endurance of iron and steel plates in resisting percussion force. Amongst the company were Capt. FRASER, of the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, and Capt. AYNLEY and Mr. D. PHILLIPS representing the Admiralty committee on steam-boilers. That steel for boilers, rails, and many other purposes is far more economical than iron we pointed out in a brief article a fortnight ago, and we may say that experiments for testing the strength of steel as compared with iron are by no means new. At Hyde the steel-plates were ½ inch thick, and the iron 7-16ths, the quality ranging from ordinary boiler iron to the best classes of steel. The plates were placed singly upon an anvil, the surface of which was concave, and a charge of 1½ lb. of gunpowder was fixed about 9 in. above, so that the force of the explosion impinged directly upon the plate below. The result of the experiment was to show that, whilst ordinary boiler iron was indented to the fullest extent of the cavity of the anvil, and fractured, the best steel stood the test remarkably well, and appears to have established the fact that the mild Bessemer steel, and that made by the Siemens process, in endurance and ductility are greatly beyond the strength of wrought-iron. The indentation upon a plate of mild Bessemer tempered in oil was only 1½ in., without the slightest fracture, whilst in three other tests of the same steel the indentations were in two cases 1 9-16th in., and in the other 1 11-16th in. The opinions expressed by those present were similar to those enunciated by ourselves on more than one occasion, that steel was far preferable to iron for boilers, rails, tyres, axles, and similar materials. Indeed, for years past iron rails have given way to those made of Bessemer, and few lines where the traffic is at all heavy are without steel rails.

In Russia steel rails are now being put down on all the new lines, and in relaying some of the older ones, and the Russian Government has shown great interest in the matter. The length of the rail in that country has been fixed at 24 ft. English, whilst a system of tests has been laid down and fully carried out, a commission having been appointed for the purpose, as the peculiar climate of Russia requires that the rails shall be of greater solidity and resistance than those necessary for other countries. There are two tests in Russia that are always adopted. In the first the rail is placed on supports 3 feet apart, and bearing for five minutes a weight of 16½ tons it should

not give way more than 0.15 of an inch. After withdrawing the permanent bend should not exceed 0.04 of an inch. In the second test the rail is placed on supports 3½ feet apart, and is bent without breaking the shock of a battering ram of 4½ tons from a height of 9½ feet. In Russia these steel rails are in favour, and on the Nicolaï Railway, on which the greatest amount has been used (96,000 rails), after three years' service they only show a maximum refuse of 0.87 per cent., and a minimum of 0.03 per cent. The result is a most favourable one, seeing that the Nicolaï Railway, a double line, is rated amongst those possessing the least traffic in the world. In France the steel rails have also been subjected to various tests. In the first, the rail submitted to trial is placed upright on two points of support, distant from each other 1.10 metre, should be able to bear for five minutes at the middle the interval between the points of support a pressure of 1700 grammes without taking any appreciable permanent set after the test, and a pressure of 330,000 kilogrammes without the deflection exceeding 25 millimetres. In the recent test by impact each of two portions of rails which have been broken being placed upright position on two supports, distant from each other 1.40 metre, fixed on an anvil weighing 10,000 kilogrammes, must sustain out breaking the impact of a monkey, of the weight of 300 grammes, falling from a height of 2.25 metres on the middle distance between the points where the rail is supported.

As we have on several occasions stated that not only railways made of steel were far more economical than iron, and there was every probability that steel plates for our war vessels for boilers will ultimately supersede those of iron, the results of experiments made of late have fully borne out our view of the most important subject of the relative value of steel and iron in these most important purposes.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLIERY MANAGERS.

The committee appointed to prepare a detailed statement of the objects of the proposed National Association of Colliery Managers have displayed satisfactory energy in entering upon the duties entrusted to them, for already the subjoined preliminary outline has been drawn up, so as to afford those interested an opportunity of thoughtfully discussing the several points proposed:—

- 1.—This Association is for the federation of Colliery Managers holding Certificates as such.
- 2.—The objects of the Association shall be the enrolment of qualified members of the Association, which, with the payment of a yearly subscription, shall constitute membership.
- 3.—The members of the Association so constituted shall form separate district funds for the benefit of those members joining such fund or funds.

- (a) Widows, and those dependent on members.
- (b) Disablement arising from accident.
- (c) Superannuation or retiring fund.
- (d) A subsidy fund for general purposes, such as temporary suspension of members.

The members' annual subscriptions shall form a fund for the constitution of the Association, and the conduct of individual cases where constitution may be required.

The separate and distinct funds will be managed so as to be independent of each other, and members may join any, all, or none, as they individually incline. The educational department has not been overlooked, but at present it is so hedged round that its arrangements are deferred to the future. That there is ample room for a successful association of colliery managers there can be no question, and the success or failure of the present project will depend in a great measure upon the proceedings of the meeting to be held to-day (Saturday), and the character of the resolution passed thereat. It was mentioned last that the majority of the speakers at the meeting were of opinion that the Association should take the form of an assurance or society, and to this part of the project there can be no valid objection, but the meeting will do well to consider whether the institution of the "subsidy fund for general purposes, such as temporary suspension, &c." will not weaken the society by causing fear of part of many who would otherwise become members that National Association of Colliery Managers will speedily degenerate into a Trades Union of the most dangerous kind—one which will apply its funds to compensate and protect members who have been found guilty of infraction of the law made for the equal protection of certificated managers and working colliers, are in the of the law and in public opinion criminals. If the fines imposed upon individual certificated managers are to be paid by an association (which certainly cannot be what the promoters of the present project intend, though their programme infers it) the Act of Parliament will be rendered useless to inflict other than pretended punishment upon the offenders, and the substitution of imprisonment without option of fine will become necessary. It may be hoped the resolutions passed to-day will have the effect of showing the Association is really worthy of the support of every certificated manager in the kingdom.

COAL IN FRANCE.

Our attention has been directed this week to two circumstances of considerable interest. The first is the fact that the production of coal in France has made no progress this year, but has, on the contrary, declined rather than otherwise. The second is a statement that a fact, or even a circumstance; thus we note a mark to the effect that English coal has been gaining ground in France this year, while Belgian coal appears to have been in less request. With regard to the production of coal in France, an official return which has just appeared shows that the extraction to June 30 amounted to 7,852,930 tons. The production has thus moved on this year at the rate of 15,705,860 per annum, while the actual production of 1876 was 16,619,563. The French would appear to be more than ever content to pay a large coal tribute to Great Britain, Belgium, and Germany, true that the extraction of coal from the French soil has increased during the past 20 years; but the production has, nevertheless, wholly failed to keep pace with the demand. The growth of railways, the establishment of additional lines of steamers, and generally extended use of steam power have all largely augmented the demand for coal among the French; and as they have a people, much natural inclination for coal mining industry, they still fail to rely more than ever—or, at any rate, as they have upon their neighbours for a certain proportion of the coal they require. With regard to the displacement of Belgian coal in France by our own black diamonds, it is clear that, without any way under-rating the natural intelligence or the persevering enterprise of the Belgians, our own coal mining interest possesses acquired advantages. As Mr. CAIRD showed, in a recent address, the long immunity which Great Britain has happily escaped from dynastic change, foreign invasion, or domestic convulsions enabled this country to develop its natural resources upon the approved principles, and to accumulate a larger working capital than is probably possessed by any other nation. The insulation of our country has not only enabled it to attain these important results, but it has also greatly facilitated the development of a rivalled mercantile marine; and this is, of course, a most important element in connection with the creation and extension of a wide commerce, such as that which it is the glory of Great Britain to possess.

We have heard from time to time of the dangers threatened to the British iron trade by Belgian metallurgical industry, would not underrate for a moment the merits of the resources of the Belgian industrialists. Considering the waste of life, the loss of enterprise, and the abstraction of working capital which the sad consequences of the wars waged in Eastern Europe since years since by NAPOLEON I., it is truly marvellous that Belgium should have done so much. Even during the 60 years which glided away since Napoleonic ambition received its death-blow upon the plains of Waterloo the course of life in Eastern Europe has frequently been troubled. But, amidst all the vicissitudes which she has witnessed around her, Belgium has contrived to maintain her national independence and her national honour; and only has she done this, but she has also managed to turn the resources of her limited territory to the utmost possible account, to secure a large measure of material well-being to her people at home, and to develop a respectable commerce abroad.

MOTIVE-POWER ENGINES.—The invention of Mr. P. GAMBON of the Rue de Valenciennes, Paris, relates to motive-power engines, in which beam-actuated pistons are used, and the liquid which is alternately compressed and expanded is made to flow as the beam rocks, and these chambers contain flexible vessels, into and from which air is free to enter and leave, so that as the end of the beam which is descending approaches the liquid, the weight of the accumulated liquid acts upon the corresponding flexible vessel to compress it, and force out the air. According to one arrangement he places the bag or flexible vessel at one end of the beam in communication by a flexible pipe

It was expected that the dispute at Ryhope would be finally settled on Saturday, but the parties having failed to agree matters remain as they were. The men are camped out, part of them in the fields, and they are dependent entirely on charity for their support, as they are not allowed any money from the funds of the Union. On the other hand, the masters are under the protection of the Association, so that they are in a much better position than the men, and they will, no doubt, require compensation for their enormous expenses from the Union and the Owners' Association.

There is little change in the Iron Trade here. Shipments, especially foreign, have been large, and the make has been taken off

but the demand is not sufficient to cause any improvement in rates. In Cumberland and the West Coast the iron trade is brisk, and the Solway Hematite Iron Company are about to light another furnace. The shipments of iron are large, the company just named having shipped over 4000 tons last week. As a consequence, the coal pits in the district are better employed. The steel mills of the West Cumberland and Mossley Works are like most of the steel rail producing works at the present time—fully employed.

REPORT FROM MONMOUTHSHIRE AND SOUTH WALES.

Oct. 4.—The Iron Trade continues in statu quo, and the coming winter bids fair to be a severe one for the men employed at the various works of the district, as wages are low and continually being reduced, and employment is precarious. We hear on all sides of reductions of wages; in addition to Dowlais, notices to this effect have been given at Rhymney, while at Blaenavon this has already been done. At Briton Ferry notices to terminate contracts at the end of the month have been posted. Prices are low, and the better descriptions of iron are not so much enquired for; consequently, what masters most aim at is increased cheapness in production. In spite of the efforts thus made, very few large orders are placed in the district. Common bars are selling at lower prices than has been the case for some years; but even this fails to infuse activity into the demand, and bars and plates form but a small proportion of the make of the district. The finished department remains in the same state of stagnation, and iron rails are very little enquired for. At the steelworks business is only moderately brisk. Tin plates are firmer in price, but no other change has taken place. Rails are going forward still to British India. The Coal Trade is dull, and winter prospects look gloomy. A fair quantity of coal is shipped to France and the Mediterranean ports. In the western portion of the district trade has slightly revived. Notwithstanding the fact that many of the pits are slackly employed, the output is still considerable, and prices are unchanged; and the same remark applies to freights. The shipments of coal have fallen off during the last few days. Steam coal continues in moderately good request, while house qualities remain materially unaltered. Patent fuel is still rather a slow sale. Nothing authentic has as yet turned up in regard to the future of Plymouth and Abernant; but it is rumoured that a Scotch firm who are interested considerably in the concern have offered to purchase the property.

The Newport Abercrombi Colliery Company have now struck the celebrated "black vein" in their second shaft, and there is communication between Nos. 1 and 2 pits. A meeting of the shareholders has been held in London, at which the future prospects of the company were discussed. The shareholders have, the report presented complained, not taken up the debentures offered with that freedom which it was expected they would, and as money was required to complete the sinking of No. 2 pit, the directors took the amount of 15,000*l.* in debentures among themselves. They express the hope that the remaining debentures will be taken up by the proprietors.

The following has been sent to us for publication:—"We, the undersigned, having been appointed by our fellow-workmen to inspect the Clydach Vale Mine on their behalf, hereby declare that the following is a true report of the result of such inspection:—The shafts were securely walled throughout, and the signalling apparatus very good. The levels and planes were well ventilated, and securely timbered throughout. We found a small blower of gas in No. 1 dip heading, east side. The working places were well supplied with timber, and well ventilated. No gas was found in the working faces or roads. The return airways and ventilating apparatus was found in good condition. The old workings were well filled with rubbish. Dated this 29th day of September, 1867.—(Signed) WILLIAM WILLIAMS, JAMES JAMES, colliers."

A charge against a collier named John Parkinson, at Swansea Petty Sessions, tends to show how colliery explosions are caused. The defendant was charged with having a lighted pipe in his possession beyond the lamp station in a colliery at Weigfach. The case was adjourned.

REPORT FROM THE NORTH OF ENGLAND.

Oct. 5.—The attendance on 'Change at Middlesborough this week was about an average, and the same remark applies to the business done, which, however, is not saying much, seeing that the tendency of trade has been so backward for the past few weeks. There is a tolerably fair enquiry for iron for export purposes, and a large quantity is being shipped to Germany, France, and the North of Europe; but the inland consumption is not quite so great as it was, and the local trade is very insignificant. Prices are much the same as those of last week, No. 1 being quoted at 44*s.* 6*d.* and No. 3 at 40*s.* 6*d.* per ton, less 1*p.* per cent. commission.

I am informed to-day that the returns of the Cleveland Ironmasters' Association, which are just being made up, show a diminished production of pig-iron to the extent of over 1800 tons, as compared with the month of August, while, contrary to general expectation, there is an increase of something like 4000 tons in the stocks, principally in Messrs. Connall's warrant stores, where iron is now being placed for speculative purposes. This is not at all a healthy state of things at a time of the year when the demand ought to be exceptionally active, in view of the approaching close of the navigation season; and there is some reason to anticipate that the quarterly meetings of the North of England iron and allied trades, which are to be held at Middlesborough next Tuesday, will not bring with it any substantial improvement in trade.

The Finished Iron Trade is not changed in any important particular. The plate manufacturers are doing a tolerably good business, with prices cut extremely fine. No notice has this week been given by either employers or employed for a change in the rate of wages fixed by the recent award of Mr. Dale, so that the wages paid to finished ironworkers for the next six months must remain the same as at the present time.

In the ironstone mining district of Cleveland very large stocks of ironstone have been accumulated, and the prospects of the future are increasingly depressing. Some eight or nine mines are now entirely inoperative, leading to the idleness of from 2000 to 3000 workmen of all classes. The drilling machine, respecting which Mr. W. Walker was to have read a paper at the recent meeting of the Iron and Steel Institute, is still being worked at the mines of Messrs. Bell Brothers, but the exact results are not yet sufficiently matured to enable me to speak of them.

The engineering and shipbuilding trades in the Cleveland district are making pretty good time, only two or three establishments working reduced hours. The Cleveland Shipyard, Middlesborough, has sufficient work on hand to employ 1200 to 1300 men.

REPORT FROM THE FOREST OF DEAN.

Oct. 4.—Little change has occurred since our last report, but we are pleased to be able to say that the improvement in the coal trade which we recently reported is fairly maintained, although we regret to add that it does not extend to all the collieries of the Forest, but is partial, and is felt more on the eastern side than on the western part of the Forest coal field; indeed, there is a large amount of slackness in trade in West Dean, and a vast amount of suffering amongst working people in consequence. At one or two collieries on the western side there is activity, but what are they among so many, or such a comparatively large population, seeing that most of the iron mines are idle, as well as the steelworks and the Parkend furnaces. Some are emigrating and a few migrating, and many suffering at home. There is more agricultural employment in and around West Dean, but even the farms cannot absorb much of the surplus labour from iron mines and collieries. Still, with these sad drawbacks, there is undoubtedly improvement in the Forest trade, but it is not so good by any means on the eastern side, as all would be glad to welcome and realise. There has been a fair business for some little time past at the forge of the Forest Vale Ironworks, and we are pleased to add that trade is improved at the tin plate works at Lydbrook and Lydney, notwithstanding that the mills are idle every third week. They would at present be in ordinary full work but for the limitation agreed upon by the South Wales Tin-Plate Masters' Association, that association having pledged itself for all its members to keep their mills idle one week in three, under a forfeiture of 500*l.*, which bond will remain in force till January next. The iron trade is still dull, and we fear that the rumours respecting blowing in furnaces at Parkend, and an additional one or two at Cinderford,

must be looked upon as canards, or else that the wish for improvement in the iron trade has been the unconscious father to the thought. Some further readjustments as to the membership in the firm of the Great Western Iron Company, are spoken of as likely to occur before the Sewdley Works will again get into working order and activity. The Whinney and Mitchelton road line is still in suspense, and the works idle, and, strange to say, the meeting of directors advertised for an early day last month has twice been adjourned, or, rather postponed, and according to our information has not yet come off. Whether this delay bodes good or evil we are unable to say. There is no doubt but the line, when completed and opened, will be a valuable outlet for produce and traffic if properly managed and worked. The Colford Local Board appears to be likely to get over some of its difficulties, and to work more peaceably, although its public works business has not been very satisfactory to the public of the neighbourhood. The Cinderford Water Works mains are now all laid in, the last being put in near Drybrook on Thursday of last week; but the pumping apparatus will not be completed for some weeks to come; and all the connections with houses have also to be effected before the works can be brought into full play. We expect, too, that some difficulty will be experienced in the adjustment rate necessary, and the extent of its application. But when the waterworks are completed it is expected that the question of new roads will come to the front again; but we note, in reference to that proposal, the opposition of the working men, or of a considerable part of them, though most strangers visiting the district will be and have been forcibly impressed with the need there is of the people mending their ways. We are not aware of any recent change in prices, nor do we think it would be wise for coal to be advanced in price under present circumstances, and we further think that the coalmasters are possessed with a similar conviction.

GOLD IN AUSTRALIA.—The total amount of gold exported from the colony (of Victoria) from the beginning of the year to Aug. 2 was 260,702 ozs. During the corresponding period of last year the entire quantity exported was 305,015 ozs.

RUSSIAN GOLD MINES.—Although the mining operations in Russia are conducted so quietly that little of them is known outside, the result is by no means small. Mining is carried on over a region of over 2,000,000 square miles. The yield, according to a recent work by M. Bogulsky, averages \$15,000,000 a year—a much larger product than is usually credited to the Russian mines.

NEW WORK ON VALUATION.—We learn with pleasure that Messrs. Longmans and Co. will shortly publish a new and important work on the valuation of collieries, iron mines, and all other kinds of mineral property. The members of the profession with which the work is more especially identified will be indebted in no small degree to the ability and industry of the author—Mr. H. D. Hoskold, C. and M.E., F.G.S., F.R.G.S., &c. for this very valuable addition to mining literature. The tables are said to be exceedingly comprehensive and elaborate, and as they are entirely new their computation must have been a work of immense labour. As regards the accuracy of the principles on which the tables are based, we need only mention that that eminent mathematician and actuary, Peter Gray, F.R.A.S., F.R.M.S., &c., has, we understand, written an introduction to Mr. Hoskold's work, fully endorsing the principles laid down by that gentleman. The publication of the book (which is indeed a pioneer on the subject upon which it treats) will be exceedingly opportune, considering the unsettled state of opinion upon the important matters with which it deals, and the diverse and conflicting methods of valuation which are at present practised by engineers, surveyors, professional valuers, and others. Mr. Hoskold is already well known among professional men as an author of ability and accuracy, and his name, coupled with that of Mr. Gray, will at once commend his work to the attention and careful consideration of that large and highly scientific body of men comprising the profession to which he belongs, and, indeed, to all business men who may be engaged in important financial speculations. We believe Mr. Hoskold has been staying at Penzance, in Cornwall, during the time his work has been passing through the press, where he much enjoyed the mild climate and splendid scenery after the fatigue of his arduous undertaking. We must reserve a detailed notice of the book until after publication.

The "RAINBOW," for October (Elliot Stock, Paternoster-row) has just been published, and is more than usually rich in what may be termed scientific, theological, and biblical articles. There has been a great want of a magazine of this description, and the Rev. Wm. Leask, D.D., has supplied the desideratum. The leading article, "Speaking for the Future," is from the pen of the Editor, and is one of the most thorough logical and lucid essays on the subject which even the learned and gifted author has produced. Mr. Maude contributes an elaborate article on "The Resurrection of the Dead." Abraham's Night's Vision at Beersheba, and "Cherubic Phenomena," by W. Morris, M.D., are excellent specimens of exegetical learning. "Notes on 2 Tim. III., IV.," are contributions of valuable Greek criticism. There is a learned review of "A Critical Lexicon and Concordance to the English and Greek New Testament," with an index of Greek words, by the Rev. Ethelbert W. Ballinger, St. Stephen's, Westminster; a work of great merit. Perhaps a larger proportion of readers of the *Mining Journal* are conversant with physical and metaphysical learning than those of any other London weekly paper, as their pursuits naturally lead them to the study of science in all its departments; and a perusal of the October number of the "Rainbow" will not disappoint them.

TO MINING COMPANIES.

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REFERENCES. In England—The London Mining Journal, and leading Cornishmen. In California—The Mining and Scientific Press, and principal Miners & Engineers.

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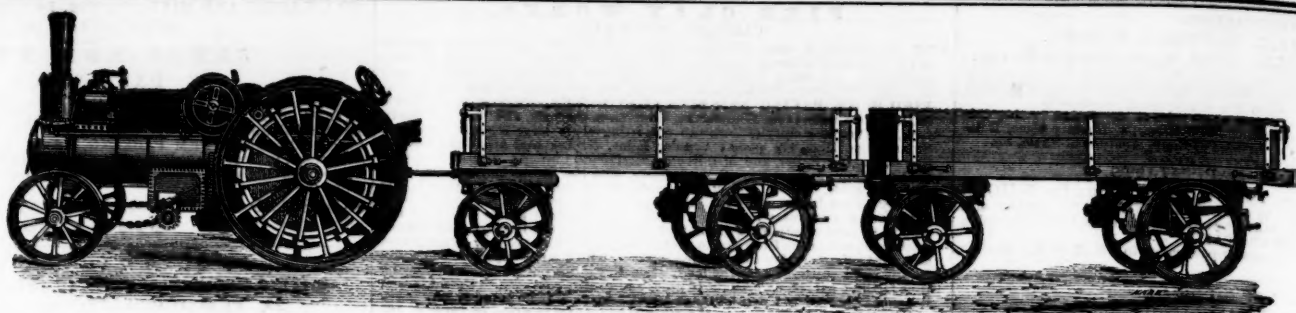
The Mines may be inspected on application to Mr. WM. PORTER, Threlkeld, for full particulars as to lease, terms, &c., obtained from the Secretary, to whom offers must be sent on or before the 1st of November, 1877.

W. J. H. GIBSON, CLERK. J. HAM DOBBIE, SECRETARY.

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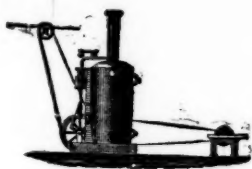
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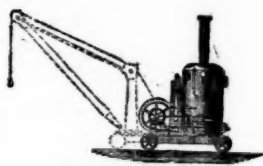
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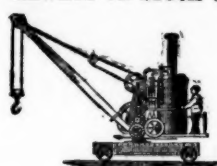
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No building required.



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With or without Jib.



STEAM CRANE.
15 cwt. to 20 tons.
For Wharf or Rail.



CONTRACTORS' LOCOMOTIVE.
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For Steep Inclines and Quick Curves.



SHIPS' ENGINE AND DISTILLER.
For Winding, Cooking, and Distilling.
Sanctioned by H. M. Government.



WINDING AND
PUMPING ENGINE.
6 to 20-horse power.

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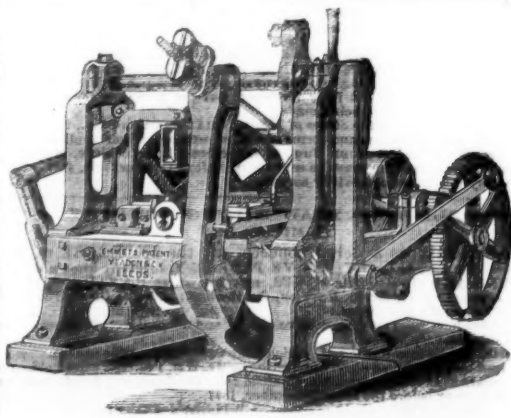
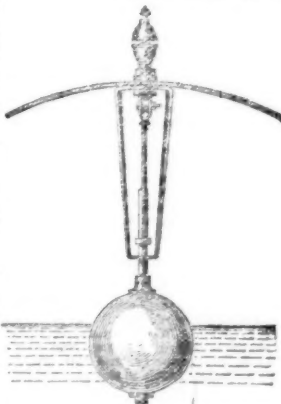
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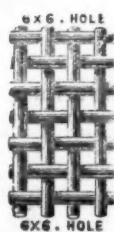
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15000	Balmynheer, t. Wenden (4000 to 15)	1 0 0	—	—	0 2 0	0 2 0	Nov. 1875
30000	Bampfylde, c. t. Devon	1 0 0	1 1/4	1 1/4	0 2 0	0 2 0	June 1877
4000	Buckfastleigh, c. t. Devon	1 0 0	—	—	3 16 0	0 2 0	Nov. 1877
2000	Bryn Allyn, t. Denbigh (101 sh.)	8 0 0	—	—	0 7 0	0 7 0	Jan. 1876
8400	Cashwell, t. Cumberland	2 10 0	2 1/4	2 1/4	1 9 0	0 2 0	Aug. 1876
1000	Carn Brea, c. t. Illogan	26 7 8	23	20 31	308 0 0	1 0 0	Feb. 1876
2450	Cook's Kitchen, t. Illogan	23 17 8	23	1 1/4	11 17 0	0 7 6	Jan. 1875
10240	Devon Gt. Consols, c. Tavistock	1 0 0	—	—	116 15 0	0 5 0	July 1877
4200	Dolcoath, c. t. Camborne	10 14 10	27	20 31	111 16 3	0 5 0	Sept. 1877
8000	East Black Craig, t. t. Scotland	5 0 0	—	—	0 10 0	0 10 0	Feb. 1877
300	East Darwen, t. Cardiganshire	32 0 0	—	—	235 10 0	1 0 0	Aug. 1876
600	East Pool, t. c. Illogan	0 9 9	8	7 1/8	15 2 3	0 2 0	June 1877
40 000	Glasgow Carr., c. (30,000 £1 p. 10,000 15s. p.)	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/4	0 12 10	0 6 0	Mar. 1877
7500	Gorehead and Merllyn Cons., t. Flint	2 10 0	6 1/4	5 1/4	0 5 0	0 5 0	Aug. 1877
15000	Great Lylife, t. t. Montgomery	4 0 0	—	—	0 2 6	0 2 6	Apr. 1876
15000	Great Lylife, t. t. Man	4 0 0	21	20 1/4	23 3 0	0 10 0	July 1877
615	Gt. Retallack, t. t. Penryn	5 18 8	—	—	0 1 6	0 1 6	May 1876
25000	Gt. West Van, t. Cardigan	2 0 0	3 1/4	3 1/4	0 2 0	0 2 0	Aug. 1874
4000	Green Hurth, t. Durham	0 8 0	3	2 1/4	0 12 0	0 12 0	Aug. 1877
20000	Groswin, t. Cardigan	2 0 0	3 1/4	2 1/4	0 12 0	0 12 0	Aug. 1877
9500	Gunnislake (Clitters), t. t.	5 5 0	2 1/4	2 1/4	0 13 9	0 10 0	Oct. 1876
1024	Herodfoot, t. near Liskeard	8 10 0	7	6 1/2	62 5 0	0 15 0	Oct. 1872
18000	Hingston Down, c. Calstock	0 4 0	3 1/4	3 1/4	0 1 0	0 1 0	Nov. 1875
60000	Holmsham, c. t. Callington	1 0 0	2	1 1/4	0 3 6	0 6 0	July 1877
2800	Isle of Man, t. t. Lanarkshire	25 0 0	—	—	62 5 0	0 10 0	Feb. 1876
20000	Leadhills, t. Lanarkshire	6 0 0	5 1/4	5 1/4	0 12 0	0 6 0	Oct. 1877
400	Leith, t. Lanarkshire	18 15 0	80	75 80	582 10 0	1 0 0	July 1877
14000	Llanidloes, t. t. Montgomery	3 0 0	2 1/4	1 1/4	0 9 0	0 4 6	Nov. 1876
5120	Lovell, t. Wenden	0 16 0	—	—	0 17 6	0 1 6	Jan. 1874
9000	Marke Valley, c. t. Llanidloes	5 3 6	1	1 1/4	7 15 0	0 2 0	Jan. 1876
9000	Miner's Mining Co., t. Wrexham	5 0 0	19 1/4	17 1/4	67 5 2	0 5 0	Aug. 1877
20000	Miner's Co. of Ireland, c. t. t.	7 0 0	—	—	23 11 6	0 3 6	Jan. 1876
444	North Bury, c. Chacewater	3 9 6	—	—	1 10 0	0 1 0	July 1877
10280	North Hendre, t. Wales	2 10 0	—	—	1 12 6	0 2 6	Aug. 1877
6000	Pedra-an-drea Con., t. Redruth	0 8 6	7 1/4	6 1/4	0 9 0	0 9 0	June 1877
5000	Penhalls, t. St. Agnes	3 0 0	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 18 6	0 2 0	July 1876
6000	Pennant, t. bar, North Wales	5 0 0	5 1/4	5 1/4	0 5 0	0 5 0	Mar. 1877
45 000	Penrith, t. t. Gwynedd	2 0 0	3 1/4	3 1/4	2 9 6	0 4 0	Nov. 1872
12000	Phenix, t. W. Phenix, t. c. Link.	3 9 6	4 1/4	4 1/4	0 14 0	0 1 3	Jan. 1876
1000	Prince Patrick, t. t. Holywell	1 0 0	2 1/4	2 1/4	7 10 9	0 6 0	May 1877
12000	Roman Gravel, t. Salop	7 10 0	9 1/4	8 1/4	739 10 0	1 0 0	Oct. 1877
512	South Cardon, c. St. Cleer	1 5 0	110	90 100	2 18 0	0 6 0	Sept. 1877
8128	South Cardon, c. St. Cleer	8 5 6	7 1/4	7 1/4	0 3 0	0 3 0	Jan. 1877
12000	St. Harmon, t. t. Montgomery	3 0 0	2 1/4	2 1/4	0 7 0	0 7 0	Oct. 1876
1 000	St. Fr. Patrick, t. t. Salop	1 0 0	6 1/4	5 1/4	4 17 0	0 5 0	Dec. 1876
1 000	Tankerville, t. Salop	6 0 0	6 1/4	5 1/4	50 8 6	0 5 0	May 1877
6000	Tincroft, c. t. Pool, Illogan	9 0 0	10	9 10	22 3 6	0 12 0	Oct. 1877
15000	Van, t. Llanidloes	4 5 0	32	30 32	55 0 0	0 10 0	Jan. 1877
3 000	W. Chiverton, t. Penryn	12 10 0	15	14 16	1 19 0	0 10 0	July 1876
1783	West Poldice, St. Day	10 0 0	13	11 13	22 5 0	0 10 0	Aug. 1877
612	West Tolve, c. Redruth	95 10 0	77	74 76	3 12 6	0 5 0	Oct. 1872
2045	West Wheal Frances, t. Illogan	28 1 3	1 1/4	2 1/4	0 6 0	0 3 0	Nov. 1876
12000	West Wheal Frances, t. Illogan	3 0 0	3	2 3	15 0 0	0 2 0	Aug. 1877
1024	Wh. Eliza Consols, t. St. Austell	20 0 0	—	—	5 5 0	0 5 0	Aug. 1877
2045	Wh. Eliza Consols, t. St. Austell	2 15 0	1 1/4	1 1/4	0 5 0	0 5 0	Aug. 1877
4250	Wh. Eliza Consols, t. St. Austell	1 0 0	1 1/4	1 1/4	0 4 6	0 4 6	Dec. 1874
25000	Wh. Newton, c. t. Calstock	1 0 0	8 1/4	8 1/4	522 10 0	4 0 0	Aug. 1872
800	Wh. Olives, t. St. Just	86 5 0	80	75 80	0 4 0	0 4 0	Oct. 1877
6000	Wh. Olives, t. St. Just	2 0 0	4 1/4	4 1/4	52 9 0	0 2 6	Mar. 1877
25000	Wicklow, c. t. Wicklow	2 10 0	—	—	0 10 6	0 6 0	Oct. 1876
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30000	Almaden and Tinto Consol., t. t.	1 0 0	3 1/4	3 1/4	0 6 3	0 1 0	May 1876
20000	Australian, c. South Australia	1 0 0	1 1/4	1 1/4	0 10 0	0 10 0	July 1877
10000	Battle Mountain, t. c. (2500 part pd.)	1 0 0	—	—	0 14 0	0 2 6	Nov. 1872
12800	Birdseye Creek, c. California	4 0 0	3 1/4	3 1/4	70 0 0	0 10 0	Oct. 1872
20000	Burra Burra, c. So. Australia	5 0 0	—	—	28 15 0	0 1 0	June 1877
4000	Cape Copper Mining, t. So. Africa	7 0 0	36	33 35	0 8 0	0 8 0	June 1876
4000	Cedar Creek, c. California	5 0 0	3 1/4	3 1/4	0 10 0	0 3 0	Aug. 1877
35000	Cesena Sul. Co., Romagna, Italy	10 0 0	—	—	2 8 0	0 4 0	Nov. 1876
15000	Colorado, c. Utah	10 0 0	2 1/4	1 1/4	0 18 6	0 4 0	Jan. 1876
10000	Colorado United, t. Colorado	16 5 0	2	1 1/4	7 11 5	0 3 0	May 1877
10000	Copapo, c. Chili (250 shares)	18 15 0	—	—	3 5 0	0 2 0	Mar. 1872
10000	Don Pedro North del Rey	0 16 0	—	—	1 8 0	0 3 0	Dec. 1876
25800	Eberhardt & Aurora, t. Nevada	10 0 0	5 1/4	5 1/4	2 15 0	0 1 0	Mar. 1877
70000	English & Australian, c. t. Aust.	2 10 0	1 1/4	1 1/4	11 19 6	0 1 0	July 1877
30000	Flagstaff, t. Utah	7 0 0	2 1/4	2 1/4	6 14 0	0 6 0	Oct. 1877
25000	Fortuna, t. Spain	2 0 0	5 1/4	5 1/4	0 2 4	0 1 0	June 1876
50000	Frontino & Bolivia, t. New Gran.	1 0 0	3	2 3	0 2 4	0 1 0	Oct. 1872
8000	Gold Run, t. t.	1 0 0	—	—	0 2 4	0 2 4	June 1873
80000	Kapunda Mining Co. Australia	1 3 0	—	—	17 3 0	0 6 0	July 1873
20000	Lead Chance, t. Utah	5 0 0	1 1/4	1 1/4	0 1 0	0 6 0	Oct. 1877
15000	Linares, t. Spain	3 0 0	6 1/4	6 1/4	1 11 6	0 1 0	July 1873
85000	Londres and California, t. t.	2 0 0	—	—	0 8 0	0 5 0	Mar. 1877
787	Lusitania, Portugal (25 sh.)	8 10 0	—	—	0 4 0	0 4 0	Jan. 1877
5000	Mammoth Copperworks of Utah, c. t.	10 0 0	—	—	23 1 1	1 11 1	Nov. 1876
10000	Mountain Chief, t. Utah	10 0 0	—	—	1 9 0	0 1 0	Sept. 1877
10000	Montebello, t. France	20 0 0	28	26 28	3 9 0	0 7 6	Oct. 1876
100000	Port Phillip, c. t. Clunes	1 0 0	—	—	15 0 0	0 13 0	June 1877
5 000	Richmond Consols, t. Nevada	5 0 0	5	4 1/4	1 16 0	0 2 0	Oct. 1876
40000	Santa Barbara, t. Brazil	0 10 0	2	1 1/4	0 14 3	0 3 0	Nov. 1876
120000	Scottish Australian Mining Co. t.	1 0 0	2	1 1/4	1 16 0	0 2 0	Oct. 1876
50000	Scottish Austral. Mining Co. New	0 5 0	—	—	0 14 3	0 3 0	Nov. 1876
112000	Sierra Butte, t. California	2 0 0	1 1/4	1 1/4	3 4 years	80 p. cent.	Dec. 1876
5000	Sierra Nevada, t. Nevada	5 0 0	—	—	0 11 10 1/2	0 6 0	May 1874
225 000	St. John del Rey (25 stock & multiples dealt in)	310 320	—	—	12 p. cent. per an	—	—
20000	Tollima, t. So. America	5 0 0	—	—	1 4 0	0 8 0	April 1877
25000	Victoria (London), t. Australia	1 0 0	3 1/4	3 1/4	—	—	—
15000	Western Andes, t. New Granada	5 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
51500	W. Prussian (5500 pref. sh. 101 pd)	10 0 0	11 1/4	10 1/4	—	—	—

NON-DIVIDEND FOREIGN MINES.

Shares.	Mines.	Paid.	Last wk.	Clos. pr.	Total divs.	Per sh.	Last pd.
5000	Angulilla Phosphate, West Indies (4000 issued)	10 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
12000	Argentine, t. Argentine Republic	5 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
30000	Bellavista, t. Peru (410 shares)	10 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
30000	Blue Tent, t. t. California	8 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
49000	Chontales, c. t. Nicaragua	2 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
16000	Condes de Chili, t. t.	5 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
20000	English Australian, t. Victoria	0 10 0	—	—	—	—	—
8000	Excelsior Hydraulic Gold Washing Co., California	0 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
100000	Exchequer, t. California	1 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
40000	Holcombe Valley, t. California	1 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
8000	Horneshead, t. Spain	1 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
12000	Huitail, t. t. Orebro, Sweden	10 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
2 000	Imperial Brazilian Collieries, Brazil	5 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
10 000	I. L. L. g. t. California	1 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
50 000	Javali, t. Nicaragua	2 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
2500	La Mancha, t. Newfoundland	10 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
120 00	Lanetosa, t. t. Viscaya, Spain (25 shares)	1 15 0	—	—	—	—	—
75 000	Malabar, t. Colombia (27185 issued)	1 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
40 000	Malpaso, t. Colombia (7400 pref. shares, fully paid)	1 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
1 000	Menzenberg, t. t. Germany	5 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
4558	New Bessberg, t. t. Germany	5 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
4 000	New Zealand Land, t. Venezuela	5 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
2 000	Oregon, t. Oregon, U.S. (preference shares)	5 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
5 000	Panico, t. t. Chile (250000 debentures)	4 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
8 000	Pasternana United, t. Italy	3 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
5 000	Providencia and New Rosario, t. Mexico	1 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
50000	Rica, t. Colombia (40000 issued)	1 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
2 121 000	Rio Tinto, t. t. Huella, Spain	Stock	—	—	—	—	—
100000	Rosa Grande, t. Brazil (41 shares)	59	—	—	—	—	—
30000	Russia Copper, Orenburg and Ufa	10 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
25000	San Pedro, t. Chile	2 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
10000	Silver Flume, t. Colorado	1 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
30000	Tecumseh, t. t. Canada	10 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
30000	Thornhill Reef, t. Australia	10 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
43174	United Mexican, t. Mexico	1 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
14000	Utah, t. t. Utah	25 15 0	—	—	—	—	—
75000	Yorke Peninsula, t. South Australia	5 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
40000	Yorke Peninsula, t. South Australia Preference	1 0 0	—	—	—	—	—

Have made calls since last dividend was paid

FOREIGN AND MISCELLANEOUS STOCKS, BONDS, LOANS, AND TRUSTS.

Shares.	Mines.	Paid
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